



Social protection in the Pacific and Timor-Leste: the state of play

Easy Read Version

P4SP
Partnerships for
Social Protection

**Australian
Aid** 

Partnerships for Social Protection

Social protection in the Pacific and Timor-Leste:
the state of play



We will provide instructions on how to read this document. [To skip ahead, go to page 5.](#)



The information on this page is called a **blog**.



A **blog** is information that is on the internet.



It includes the ideas and thoughts of the person who wrote the information.



This blog is called “Social protection in the Pacific and Timor-Leste: the state of play”.



You can also read this blog at this website <https://p4sp.org/resources/state-of-play/>



Two other people also helped us to write this blog.



Their names are Charles Knox-Vydmanov and Sinta Satriana.

How to read this blog



This blog is written in an easy to read way.



There will be some hard words.

We will write these words in **bold**.



We will explain what they mean.



You can ask someone to help you to read this blog.



When you see the words ‘we’, ‘our’, or ‘us’ it means **Partnerships for Social Protection**.

We also use the short name **P4SP**.



P4SP is a project by the Australian **government**.



Government means a group of people who make up the rules that everyone must follow.



P4SP aims to make social protection systems in the **Pacific** stronger.



Pacific means people who live on an **island** in the Pacific ocean.

An **island** is when there is water all the way around the land.

How is social protection working in the Pacific and Timor-Leste?



Social protection means things that the government gives a person, like **pension payments**, to help them to



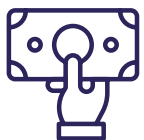
- have money to buy things like food



- use things in the community, like seeing a doctor



- recover when something that is not planned happens, like losing your job or being in a flood.



Pension payments are an amount of money that the government gives to people to help them to pay for the things they need.

Social protection helped Pacific countries to help people when COVID-19 happened.

Countries helped their people by



- giving people money



- giving people food or **vouchers** for things they need

A **voucher** is a note to say someone gets something for free or a small amount of money.



- Selling things to people for a cheaper price
- letting people take money from their savings in **provident funds**.



A **provident fund** is a way that governments and **employers** help people who work to save money for when they are older and don't work anymore.



Employers are people who give other people jobs.



Many people think that not many countries in the Pacific give people social protection.



Some people think that social protection only started in the Pacific during COVID-19.

People think the government will not continue to help communities after COVID-19.



P4SP did some **research** about social protection in the Pacific.

Research is a way to find out about something.



We learned that many Pacific countries have been spending money on social protection for longer than **15** years.



Governments know that social protection is important as it helps people at different times in their lives.

Governments in the region will continue to have social protection programs in the future.



We looked at **10** countries in our research.

We learned that



- **7** of these countries spend money on social protection



- **7** of these countries spend more money on social protection than many other countries in Asia and the Pacific



- **3** of these countries do not spend money on social protection now.

Papua New Guinea wants to start giving more social protection to



- women having babies



- children.

The World Bank and the Australian Government will help them to do this.



Pacific countries are getting better at giving social protection to people.



In the past, provident funds were the only type of social protection in the Pacific.



Now, some Pacific countries also have social protection programs for people at different times in their lives. They might give money to



- children
- older people
- people with a disability
- people who do not have a job.



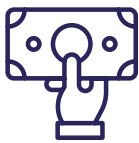
Governments know that some groups of people need more help than others.





It is also often difficult for governments to work out who is poor or not.

People who are poor today, might not be poor in the future.



So many governments chose to give money to all people in the group.

It doesn't matter if they are poor or not.



A small number of countries have social protection programs that are only for poor people.



Countries that already had social protection programs before COVID 19 happened were able to use them to support people during COVID 19.

Some countries gave money to all people.

Other countries including the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa and Tonga gave money only to



- older people
- people with disabilities
- children.



Pacific countries have improved social protection in small ways over time.

They have changed things like



- the age that people can get old age pensions
- how much help or money people can get.

Fiji is one place that has continued to improve social protection over time.



Making these improvements over time costs governments more money.



Paying for these improvements can be difficult for some governments.



Sometimes other countries or businesses can help Pacific countries to pay for these improvements.



Finding the money to improve social protection is important because social protection



- helps all people live better lives



- keeps people safe if something happens that is not planned.



How to talk to us

Would you like to learn more?

Do you have any questions?

You can contact us at:



Email: info@p4sp.org