



Amplifying Pacific and Timor-Leste voices in social protection research

Easy read version

P4SP
Partnerships for
Social Protection

**Australian
Aid** 



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 **Amplifying Pacific and Timor-Leste voices in social protection research**.



You can also read this blog at this website <https://p4sp.org/resources/amplifying-pacific-social-protection-research/>



Kate Bevitt, Kate Lanyon and Matt Allen wrote this blog.

How to read this blog



This blog is written in an easy to read way.



There will be some hard words.

We will write the hard 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 makes **social protection** systems stronger in the **Pacific**.



Social protection means things that the government gives a person to

- have money to buy things like food
- do things like see a doctor
- recover when something that is not planned happens, like losing your job or being in a flood.



Pacific means people who live on an island in the Pacific Ocean.

How does social protection help people?



We did **research** to understand what is being said about social protection in the Pacific and who is speaking.

Research is a way to find out about something.



We published our findings in this report, [Evidence Review: Social protection in the Pacific and Timor-Leste.](#)



You can read the report at this website: <https://p4sp.org/resources/evidence-review-social-protection-in-the-pacific-and-timor-leste/>



We found there has not been much research done by people from the Pacific. This means we do not always hear their views on social protection in the Pacific.

When research is done by people who live in Pacific countries, we learn more about how things are done in that country.



This information is important to make social protection systems better in each country.

What did we learn from our research?



We did our research with a business called Sustineo.



We looked at 242 different documents about social protection in the Pacific.

The research found it is mainly big international organisations that write about social protection in the Pacific.



These international organisations usually focus on the support for vulnerable people that comes from governments.



They don't tend to include information on the support provided to people by families, communities and churches.

However, when people from the Pacific write about social protection, they focus more on how support from governments and support from families, communities and churches can work together.



Our research found Pacific individuals and organisations need to be supported more to lead and be part of social protection research.



For this blog, we spoke with three **experts** from the Pacific to get their ideas on how more people from the Pacific can research and write about social protection.



An **expert** is someone who knows a lot about something.

Different ways of thinking about social protection

Professor Steven Ratuva studies Pacific issues at the University of Canterbury.



Professor Ratuva said there are many kinds of social protection in Pacific Island countries.

These social protection systems are run by:



- governments



- local and international organisations, including churches



- communities.

Professor Ratuva said that existing support systems have been around for a very long time and have been able to help people when needed. He said they have also changed over time.



Professor Ratuva said that calling the support provided by communities and churches informal social protection is misleading, as it is often provided through formal community structures.

Professor Ratuva said that many Pacific researchers are writing and talking about social protection but calling it other things.



He said it is important to look at research on other issues, like forests, oceans, and disaster response.

Social protection is often talked about when these issues are discussed but it is not called social protection.



Professor Ratuva said that more could be done to bring researchers from these different areas together and to make people more aware of social protection.

He said more research is needed that looks at social protection from the viewpoint of people and communities.

Learning from people in their own countries



Litea Meo-Sewabu is an **associate professor** at Western Sydney University.

An **associate professor** is a type of teacher at a university.



Dr Meo-Sewabu said some of the important work for Pacific communities does not get published in journals that are well known.

It is sometimes published in journals that you can't find as easily.



This means that the work does not get seen by as many people.



There needs to be more ways for Pacific people to speak about social protection and share their experience of what works when it comes to social protection provided by communities.

Dr Meo-Sewabu said “it would be great to have a collection of stories of what has worked across the Pacific.”



Our research also found there needs to be more opportunities for countries to share their social protection lessons, particularly countries with more developed government social protection systems.

Helping Pacific countries do research



We learned from our research that researchers from the Pacific need to be supported to write and speak more about social protection.

Dr Meo-Sewabu said most of the time, it is people from outside the Pacific who are talking about social protection in the Pacific.

She said that more Pacific people need to say what is right for them.



She said it's good when Pacific people work together with people from outside the Pacific.

Ms Kalsuak is a team leader at the Pacific Community organisation.

She recommends more support be given to universities from the Pacific, such as the University of the South Pacific and smaller national universities.



She said using the existing education providers will encourage more Pacific-led research in social protection.

This way, research will be based on in Pacific **culture** and knowledge.



Culture means the way a group of people celebrate special days or how they treat each other.

Ms Kalsuak said schools and universities in the Pacific can help encourage students and researchers.

This will:



- make sure that Pacific people can talk about their lives and experiences



- make better research and policies about social protection.



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