



# In focus: Social protection for shock response in the Pacific and Timor-Leste

Easy read version

**P4SP**  
Partnerships for  
Social Protection

**Australian  
Aid** 

## Partnerships for Social Protection

In focus: Social protection for shock response in Pacific and Timor-Leste.



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 **In focus: Social protection for shock response in the Pacific and Timor-Leste.**



You can also read this blog at this website <https://p4sp.org/resources/in-focus-social-protection-for-shock-response-in-pacific-and-timor-leste/>

## 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**.



**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 does social protection help people?



We did **research** to learn about social protection in the Pacific.

**Research** is a way to find out about something.

We wanted to know how social protection helps people when **shocks** hit.



**Shocks** are big things that happen and cause big changes or problems.

We wrote a new **brief** about this research.



A **brief** is a short document that tells people about something.

The brief is called The role of social protection in responding to shocks and building resilience in the Pacific and Timor-Leste.



You can read the brief on this website: <https://p4sp.org/resources/the-role-of-social-protection-in-responding-to-shocks-and-building-resilience-in-the-pacific-and-timor-leste/>

## How social protection can help when a shock happens

Social protection systems help when big things happen like



- cyclones



- earthquakes



- a rise in food prices



- **pandemics** like COVID-19.

A **pandemic** is when a disease makes many people sick all over the world.



At these times, governments can give people money for a short time to help them straight after the shock happens.



For example, our brief talks about a cyclone that happened in Tonga in 2018.

The Government of Tonga gave extra money to people receiving social protection to help them after the cyclone.

There is another way that social protection happens after shocks.



Governments can give money to people who are affected by a shock but not already getting social protection.

For example, some Pacific countries gave money to people who did not have jobs in COVID-19.



This happened in

- Cook Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- Palau
- Samoa.



Sometimes governments received help from others, including from other governments as well as local and international organisations.



**Contributory social protection** also helps people after disasters.

**Contributory social protection** is when you and your employer, and sometimes the government, all give some money that you can use when you need help or when you stop working because you become old.



This is called **retirement**.

Some Pacific countries let people take money out from their retirement savings after a big shock like a cyclone.



The Pacific countries that did this were

- Fiji
- Samoa
- Tonga.



## How social protection can help people be more ready for shocks

Social protection can also help people to be ready for shocks in the future.



This is very important in the Pacific because climate change is making the weather worse over time.

Some programs that try to work on climate change and social protection are very small.



They are not always part of bigger programs.



This shows that small and big programs need to find a way to work together.

## What makes it hard to pay for social protection



Paying for social protection can be hard.

Shocks are happening more often now in the Pacific.

This means that Pacific countries need more money for disasters than in the past.



It is very important for Pacific countries to find enough money to make good social protection systems.

To help pay for these shocks, governments are using a range of ways to access money.

Some of these ways are



- saving up money over time so that it can be used in shocks
- asking other countries for money to help when shocks happen from climate change.

## What Pacific countries still need to learn about



It is clear that social protection is important in helping countries respond to different shocks.



But there is still a lot that is not known.

More information is needed about



- the best ways to use social protection to fight climate change
- the best way to pay for social protection
- how social protection from governments, families, communities and churches can work together to help deal with climate change.



Most research on social protection in the Pacific comes from organisations that are not in the Pacific.

There needs to be more research done by people and organisations from the Pacific.



This is important because it will help people in the Pacific find the best ways to do 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](mailto:info@p4sp.org)