



# Leaving no one behind: Social protection and disability in the Pacific

Easy read version

**P4SP**  
Partnerships for  
Social Protection

**Australian  
Aid** 

## Partnerships for Social Protection

Leaving no one behind: Social protection and disability in the Pacific



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 **Leaving no one behind: Social protection and disability in the Pacific**



You can also read this blog at this website <https://p4sp.org/resources/leaving-no-one-behind-social-protection-and-disability-in-the-pacific/>



P4SP and Pacific Disability Forum 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**.



**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.

## Social protection and disability in the Pacific



**Traditional social protection** has been around for a long time in the Pacific.

**Traditional social protection** includes money and support from family and community **networks**.



A **network** is the different places or people in your life who can help you when you need it.

Traditional social protection is very important for people with disabilities.

There is also **social protection** from the government.

**Social protection** means things that the government gives a person to



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



- have money to buy things like food



- do things like see a doctor





Getting cash is important for people with disabilities because they must spend more money to live because of their disability.

People with disabilities are sometimes treated unfairly because of unhelpful views about disability.



These challenges are even greater for women and girls with disabilities.

The **Pacific Disability Forum or PDF** says social protection makes sure people with disabilities are included in society.



**PDF** is a group of organisations made up of people with disabilities.

It is hard for the government to do social protection in the Pacific.



This is because people live in different places like in the mountains or on small islands.



These places can be hard to get to and have limited phone access.

It is not easy to get cash to these places.



The number of people with disability in the Pacific is also rising because there are more older people who have **non-communicable diseases**.

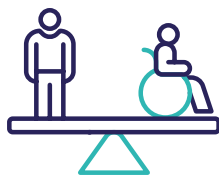
**Non-communicable diseases** are illnesses you cannot catch from other people such as diabetes.

## The Pacific is here to assist people living with disability

In 2008, Pacific governments and organisations agreed to protect the rights of people with disabilities.



This was by following the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



The **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is an agreement that says people with disabilities must have the same rights, choices, and chances as everyone else.



In 2009, disability ministers from across the Pacific met in the Cook Islands.

They wrote the first regional strategy for people with disabilities.



This led to the **Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.



The **Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** tells governments how to promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities.



An important part of the framework is social protection, which helps make sure people with disabilities are supported.

There is still more work for governments to do to apply this framework.

PDF knows a lot about social protection programs.



They work with **Organisations of Persons with Disabilities** to make sure the rights of people with disability are upheld in policy and in disability programs.



**Organisations of Persons with Disabilities** are organisations that work to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

## Disability benefits in the Pacific



There are two ways that people with disability can be included in social protection.

This is by:



- making sure all people with disability can get social protection



- starting social protection payments for people with disability.



Programs for people with disability are a new form of social protection in Pacific countries.

The main form is a **disability benefit**.

A **disability benefit** is a payment that helps people with disabilities pay for extra costs that come with living with a disability.



This includes costs such as needing to buy equipment like a wheelchair or needing to pay extra travel costs to see a doctor.



These countries have had disability benefits since 2015:

- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Palau
- Samoa
- Tonga
- Tuvalu.



Some people with disability in the Pacific do not receive disability benefits.



People with disability in the Pacific receive more money from their disability benefits compared to people with disability in other parts of the world.

For example, in countries such as Cook Islands, Kiribati and Nauru, people receive more money from their disability benefits than other countries.



All I-Kiribati people with disabilities can be part of all social protection programs, including the disability benefit.

## Improving social protection for people with disability



Countries in the Pacific have made their disability programs better over time.

There is still more work to be done by governments.

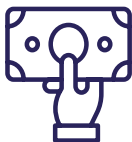


Governments could design their social protection programs to better meet the needs of women and girls with disabilities.



This will help them be supported and included in the same activities as others.

This includes going to school and going to work.



It is important to make sure that people with disabilities receive enough money to live with a disability and carry out daily tasks.



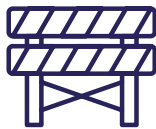
It is important to make sure people with disability can work a job and get a disability benefit.



In some Pacific countries, people with disabilities that work or who want to work are not allowed to receive a disability payment.



People with disability should be able to receive a disability payment, which makes it possible for them to work.



It is important to understand the **barriers** people with disability face every day.

A **barrier** is something that stops you from doing or getting something you need.

Removing barriers makes sure people with disability can participate in home and community life.



It is important that governments in the Pacific uphold the rights of people with disability in all disability programs.



There are many countries in the Pacific that need people with disability to visit a doctor to confirm they have a disability.



This has to happen before they can get a disability benefit.

It can hard for people with disability to see a doctor because there are not many doctors and they can be far away from the person's home.



Fiji has a good program that can be followed by other countries.

The Fiji program looks at all parts of a person's life and their needs when seeing if they have a disability.

## Leaving no one behind



Pacific countries have been doing lots of work to make sure they uphold the rights of people with disability.

The work is a great example of how other countries around the world can use social protection to support people with disability.



In the last 10 years, many Pacific countries needed to spend a lot of money to respond to the **COVID pandemic** and extreme weather events.

The **COVID pandemic** was when a sickness called COVID-19 spread to many countries, making lots of people sick and changing daily life around the world.



Pacific governments are continuing their work to make sure people with disability receive the support they need and no one is left behind.





## 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)