

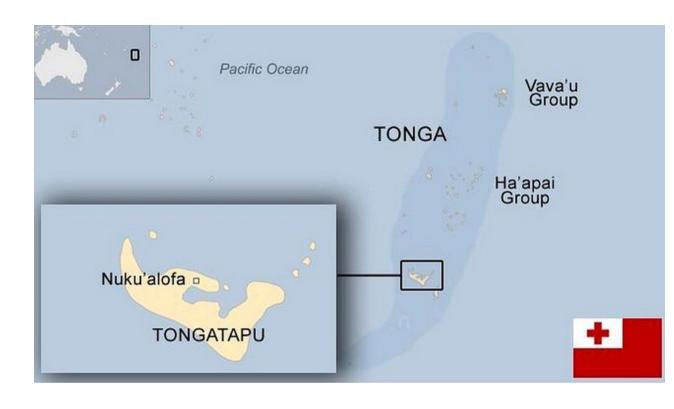
Country context

- Tonga population: 106,439 (census 2021)
- Gender distribution: 49% are males and 51% are females
- Life expectancy: Females 74.3 yrs, Males 68.7 yrs, National average: 71.4 yrs
- Age structure:

39,610 young people under 15 years old (20,122 males / 19,489 females)

60,381 persons between 15 and 64 years old (30,273 males / 30,107 females)

6,448 persons above 64 years old (3,001 males / 3,446 females)



Social Protection Benefit schemes, services and programs in Tonga since 2015

- (DWS) Disability Welfare Scheme Cash Assistance commence in 2015 to date (amount increase)
- (TSSP) Tonga Social Service Programme commence in 2015 (2022/2023 covering all the outer islands)
- (SWS) Social Welfare Scheme cash assistance to elderlies at 70yrs old and above. (Universal)
- (CCT) Conditional Cash Transfer commence in 2019/2020 – to date (WORLD BANK funded -to poor households)
- Humantarian Cash Transfer to Children from 0 17 years old (commence in 2022 – to date (UNICEF)
- Integrated Aged Care System with ADB @US\$17.5 million, (commence Dec. 2023 onwards...)







Lessons Learned

- 1. Develop a very close network with all relevant Ministries, NGOs, CSOs, Town Officers, Local kava party and Faith based institutions.
- 2. Close collaboration with all Stakeholders at all times, Peace times and in particular, times of disaster.
- 3. Must understand the issues of the PWD, Elderlies, Children and poverty by all decision makers, policy makers, like Cabinet Ministers, Finance Officers, even the Focal Point and the communities
- 4. The Cabinet Ministers and Parliament Representatives must be engaged as champions for your submissions
- 5.Activate all clusters, churches, local kava groups, to work together with government. Unity as a family.
- 6. Timely submission of data with Development partners and always be always responsive.
- 7. Coordination to be well conducted.
- 8. Tonga experience Do not Forget to include our God in all our plans for Social Protection as our Social Protector

