

Kingdom of Tonga



Expanding new care and support services

Thursday September 28 2023



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)
- Humanitarian 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

