

## Together, to change the lives of millions in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands

### Extending social protection coverage

Today, the lack of adequate social protection systems is one of the biggest challenges to Pacific Island Countries' equitable and sustainable development, as well as a disregard of one of the human rights of its people. The urgency of developing sound social protection policies is increasingly recognized throughout the Pacific Island Countries. These countries generally have had limited formal social protection provisions and communities have relied on traditional social protection mechanisms.

Solomon Islands has very limited formal social protection provisions and over the years the country has made little progress in extending social protection. Through consultations and dialogues, the lack of understanding about social protection among stakeholders was identified as a barrier to progress. Social protection awareness-raising activities have been conducted as a first step before moving towards developing a broad social protection strategy.

In Vanuatu, an assessment based national dialogue (ABND) exercise was conducted, focusing on dialogues to increase awareness of the social protection floor, analyse major gaps in the system, and agree on key priorities. As a result of this exercise, a policy paper with specific recommendations to extend social protection in priority areas was developed jointly by the Government, workers, and employers through the Tripartite Labour Advisory Council (TLAC).

### A new momentum for social protection

Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are willing to extend social protection coverage. An assessment based national dialogue (ABND) exercise will be conducted in Solomon Islands to define a national social protection strategy while continuing awareness-raising activities.

In Vanuatu, the Government, workers, employers, and civil society organizations have analysed the current



social protection system, expressed their respective positions on the social protection issues at hand, and agreed on the necessary steps towards reform. Vanuatu is now in the process of implementing the recommendations formulated during the ABND.



“ In the Pacific Islands, cities are growing and informal and traditional social protection through rural community networks is no longer sufficient to alleviate poverty and hardship. The concept of social protection is relatively new and awareness-raising is needed among decision-makers. In Vanuatu, this has been very successful, as the country has validated its first national social protection strategy after about only one year of dialogue!

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As a Social Protection Officer, **Sinta Satriana** supported the ABND in Vanuatu in 2014.



	Solomon Islands	Vanuatu
Current situation	Social protection in the Solomon Islands consists of basic health and education services, as well as limited social security schemes for formal sector workers, including compulsory retirement savings through a provident fund and severance, maternity, and employment injury benefits. Currently, Solomon Islands has no social insurance scheme and no national social protection strategy.	Other than basic services, such as primary health care and primary education, the main social protection scheme is the Provident Fund, which provides retirement and survivors' savings benefits to formal sector workers. Severance pay, employment injury benefits, and maternity leave are provided on an employers' liability basis and only to formal sector workers. No social insurance scheme exists.
Target	By the end of 2016, Solomon Islands will formulate a social protection floor strategy developed through a national dialogue approach.	By the end of 2016, Vanuatu will formulate detailed designs and conduct feasibility studies for the implementation of the schemes proposed in the ABND report.

## From right to reality with you

Social protection is one of the key priority areas of the United Nations Development Agreement Framework (UNDAF) of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The ILO has long-term experience in supporting countries to provide and extend social protection. With your support, we can extend social security coverage in the Pacific Island Countries.

In Solomon Islands, you can support us to:

- Assess the social protection situation and formulate recommendations through a national dialogue.  
US\$300,000
- Design a social protection scheme, including actuarial, institutional, and legal studies.  
\$300,000
- Support the development of a social security law.  
\$150,000
- Assist workers' unions and employers' associations in conducting awareness-raising activities among their members.  
\$100,000 per year

In Vanuatu, you can support us to:

- Implement a new regime of maternity insurance and cash transfers for children.  
\$300,000
- Develop an administrative system to manage and deliver social protection services and transfers.  
\$1,200,000
- Improve existing social protection schemes, including work injury, unemployment benefits, and health care.  
\$200,000

## Listening to your ambitions

As a donor, you receive regular reports detailing the progress made and have access to ongoing project activities and performance indicators.

To further discuss your needs and the ways you can improve the lives of 830,000 people in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, you can contact:



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