



Strengthening Resilience of Pacific Island States through universal Social Protection



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Background

- Universal Social Protection Programme is a joint initiative by the United Nations through the Joint SDG Fund and implemented by UNDP, UNESCO, ILO, UNESCAP and UNICEF
- Joint Programme is implemented in four Pacific Island Countries & Territories: Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau
- Duration is from June 2020 – June 2022



Background

- **Aims at:**
 - increasing resilience through viable and financially sustainable SP systems that will address life cycle vulnerabilities
 - strengthen SP floors and enhance employability
- **Objective is to:**
 - develop universal, evidence-based, nationally owned SP systems and introduce SP floors to help accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
- **ILO definition of Social Protection comprising:**
 - social insurance
 - social welfare and
 - labor market interventions



Background

➤ 4 Outcomes

1. Universal, inclusive & equitable SP systems
2. SP floors are efficiently and effectively administered
3. Financial inclusion enables low transaction cost transfers of SP benefits
4. Increased resilience through mainstreaming of disability, gender, youth, and climate related contingencies



Key Achievements

- **Draft National Social Protection Policy** completed and submitted to Government of Samoa
- **Persons with Disabilities:**
 - Fiscal Space Analysis on People with Disabilities (PWD) in the 4 PICTs completed
 - Development of a Social Security Benefit Design for PwDs in Samoa *is in progress*
- **Samoa Social Protection Indicator Matrix (SSPIM)** developed and final report published by the Samoa Bureau of Statistics



Key Achievements

- **Analyses and Reports completed:**
 - Role of the Informal and traditional systems in social protection in Samoa
 - Contribution to social protection of remittances including the costs of remittance transfers
 - Stock take and Review of Social Protection in all four countries
 - Analysis of Niue and Samoa CRVS System completed
 - Feasibility phase for Social Protection Management Information System in Cook Islands completed
 - Review of the Samoa National Employment Policy 2016/2020 and development of Samoa National Employment Policy 2021/2025 completed
 - Two policy briefs on disaster-responsive and investment in social protection completed and finalized
 - First policy brief on mainstreaming disaster responsiveness in social protection was developed and co-published with Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE).
 - Second policy brief on operationalization of disaster-responsive social protection.



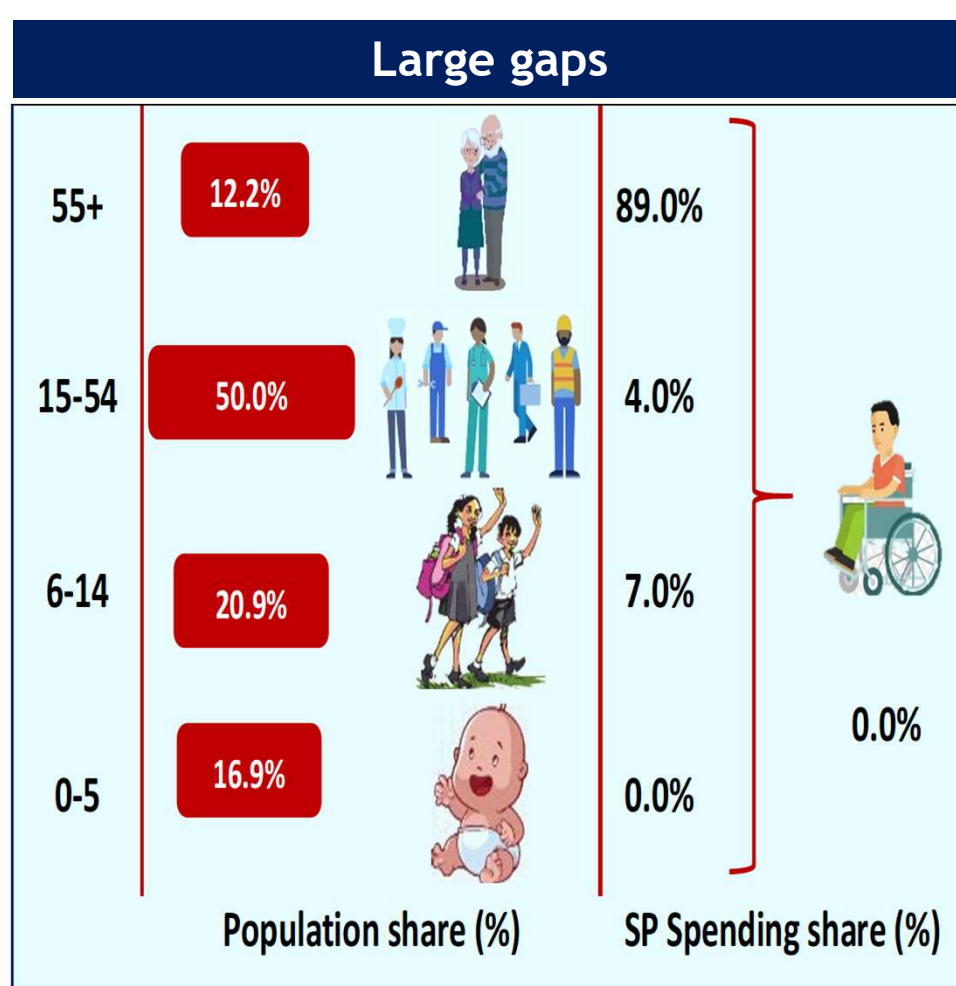
Key Achievements

- **Workshops/ Trainings:**
 - **MPI (Multi-dimensional Poverty Index) Training for Statistics Officers from Samoa, Cook Islands and Niue completed in August 2021.** Certificate Presentation was conducted on 9th November 2021
 - **Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) Programmes conducted for Seasonal workers before departing for employment in NZ and Australia**
 - Workshop on the ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment in the World of Works (C190) and its accompanying Recommendation R206. Training on Legislative and Policy reforms of the Labour and Employment Relations Act to enhance the Rights of Workers and further improvement of Working Conditions and Entitlements.
 - Training programme conducted for women in the Agriculture sector on how to Start Your Business (SYB)



Example: Samoa Social Protection System

The current formal SP has large gaps



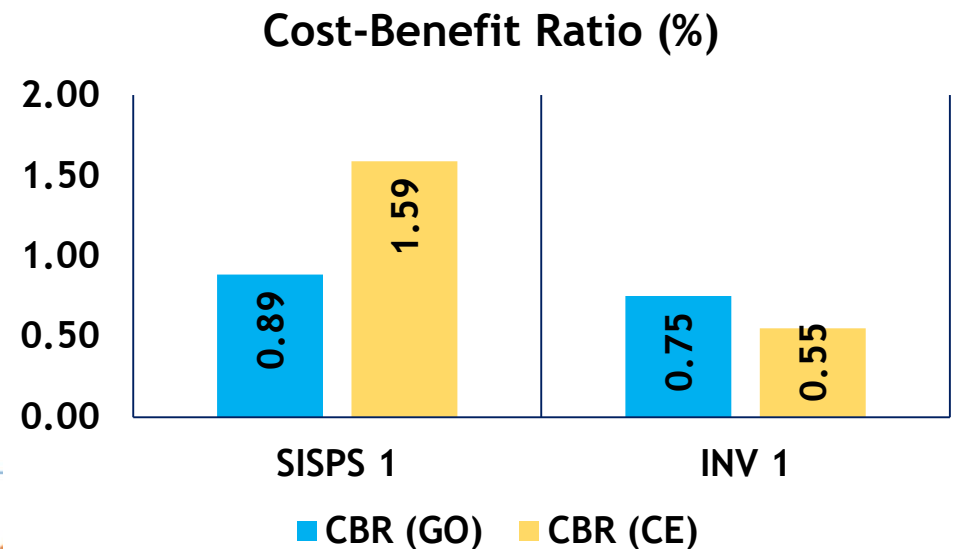
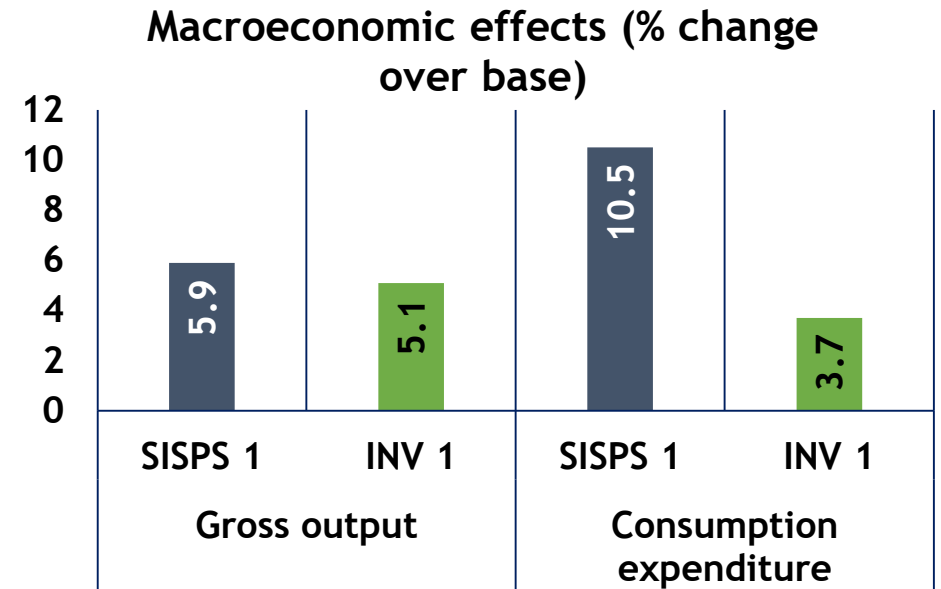
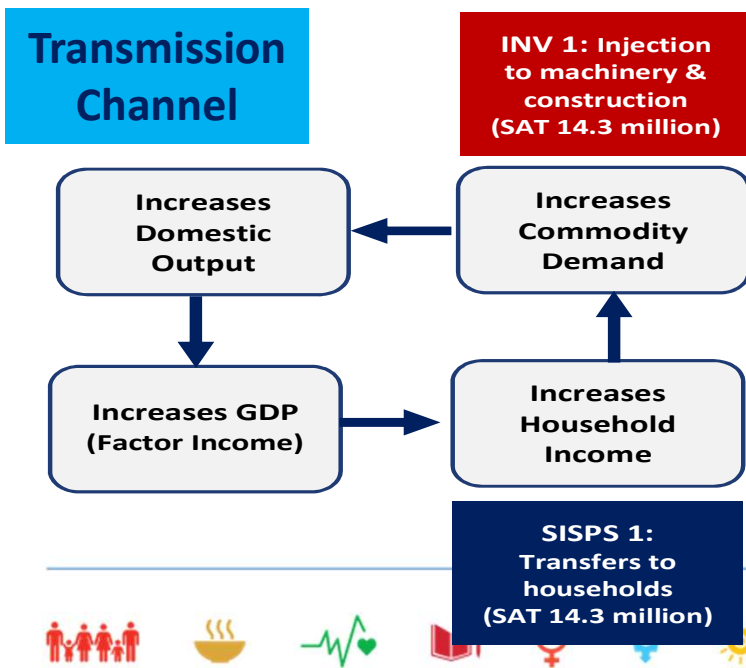
Key features of the current SP system

1. **Inappropriate** due to paucity of schemes and lack of internal balances between them in terms of coverage and resource allocation.
2. **Inadequate** due to low beneficiary coverage and transfer amounts.
3. **Inequitable** as it favours non-poor people and as a disproportionate male beneficiary coverage over female beneficiary and transfer amounts.
4. **Incentive incompatible** due to huge mismatch between the population structure, beneficiary coverage and spending.
5. **Lacks dynamism** as it fails to transform or align to the changing life cycle needs and risks.



Is there a trade-off of SP investment?

- Simulated macro effects by investing same amount in infrastructure
- Compared with SP



Joint Programme Challenges

- COVID-19 restrictions and Government priorities to COVID response and prevention.
- Internal UN coordination of workplan and activities for one programme across 4 countries to ensure alignment, value for money, and better synergies
- Travel restrictions require reworking of arrangements



Lessons Learnt

- ❑ Social protection is a cross cutting issue and requires coordinated efforts across partners.
- ❑ Importance of building stakeholder support and engagement for the programme implementation and integration into national efforts.
- ❑ SP-JP is a programme with one purpose with mutually reinforcing outcome areas and activities – implementation of other activities (by one PUNO) is contingent on the successful implementation of other prior activities (by other PUNOs). This interconnectedness of the SP-JP design required better coordinated and collaborative efforts amongst PUNOs.
- ❑ The novelty of adapting and developing social protection in contexts such as Samoa meant that sufficient time is to be allowed for social protection concepts to be widely discussed and accepted by counterparts including thinking about the contextualization of such concepts.



Thank you

