

Pacific Risk Resilience Programme (PRRP)

Working towards resilient communities in the Pacific

Fast Facts

May 2015



Community Protection Committee (CPC) Approach In Tonga

Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) in Tonga is establishing Community Protection Committees in 6 communities in Ha'apai. Following Tropical Cyclone Ian in January 2014, the MIA conducted a rapid protection assessment in Ha'apai and prioritized the need to establish Community Protection Committees (CPCs).

The Need to establish Community Protection Committees (CPCs) was prioritised by the MIA after it conducted a rapid assessment in Ha'apai following Tropical Cyclone Ian in January 2014. The CPCs will operate on an ongoing basis, initially focussing on protection needs and risks likely to be increased during a disaster but with a general human rights and social protection mandate.

What is a CPC?

Each CPC will safely monitor protection issues affecting particularly vulnerable groups including, but not limited to: women, children, elderly people, people with disabilities and single-headed households. CPCs will collect information on protection trends, priority concerns and gaps in services in their communities and report on these to the National Safety and Protection Cluster.

Working with existing structures/initiatives

- Committee structures currently exist within governance structures in Tonga. Committees represent water, women, education and other sectors at Village Councils
- CPCs to have a standing membership at Village Councils
- Community Development Plans reflect social protection and CPCs in Ha'apai

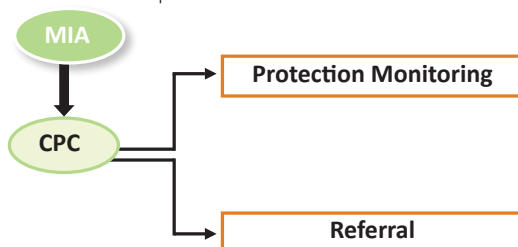
The CPC program works towards supporting risk governance at a **national** level. CPCs enable MIA to respond to real needs and risks at the local level, rather than top-down planning.

With reciprocal reporting, CPCs entrench stronger relationships between **national, sub-national and community structures**.

Core Functions of the CPCs

The CPCs program aims to strengthen protection at national and community levels in Tonga through two core functions:

- » **Protection Monitoring** and monthly reporting of protection trends, patterns, gaps and strengths (needs assessment) submitted to MIA
- » **Community-Based-Protection** mechanism established to build on existing resilience, capacities and resources to enhance the self-protection within communities.



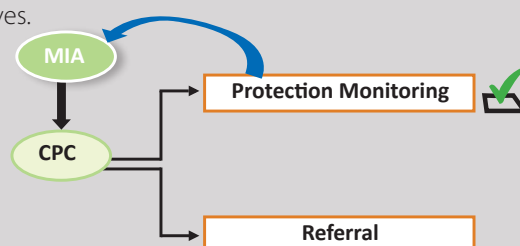
CORE FUNCTION 1: Protection Monitoring

Protection Monitoring is conducted by CPCs through a range of tools and methodologies. Reports submitted monthly to MIA at national level with reciprocal monthly reports from MIA to CPCs.

Information flow

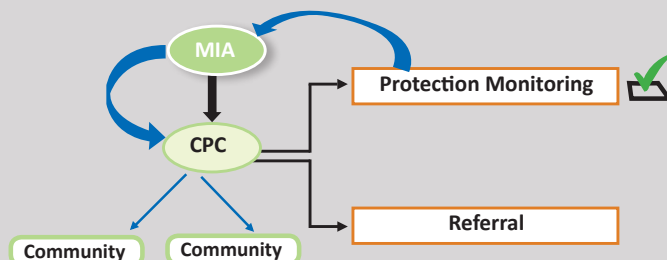
1. Protection Monitoring reports from CPC to MIA

The findings of the protection monitoring will inform protection programming and resource allocation and ensure planning processes reflect the needs as identified by the communities themselves.



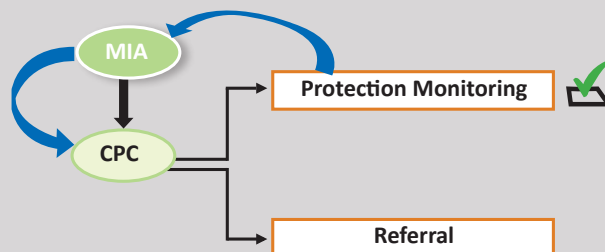
2. Protection updates/feedback from MIA to CPCs

The reciprocal reporting responsibility from MIA to CPCs will strengthen information flows to communities and help ensure concerns raised by parties are followed-up.



3. CPCs then report to community

This process enables communities to make informed choices.



Community Protection Committees and PRRP

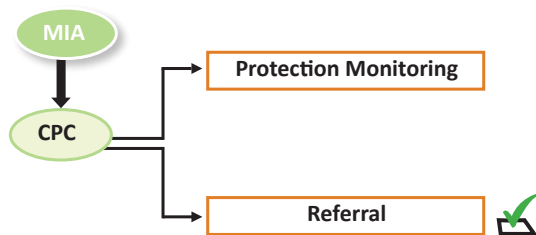
Social protection as a sector is seen as more abstract and sensitive than other sectors, it nevertheless relies on evidence and reliable datasets to facilitate effective programming. Climate change and disasters impact people differently:

- **Vulnerable groups** such as women, children, single-headed households, persons living with disabilities, older persons and other marginalised groups have different needs and strengths.
- Pre-existing concerns such as gender based **violence**, land disputes, child protection concerns are invariably exacerbated in a disaster.

Communities can become more resilient to climate change and disasters if routine government, community and other planning takes these risks into account. This risk governance approach is delivered through a partnership between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and international non-government organisation Live & Learn Environmental Education (LLEE), and supported by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). PRRP is being delivered in four countries: Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Community-based protection

CPCs will act as the focal point for social protection to support communities to improve resilience at a local level, including improving access to services and information. CPCs will act as referral hubs for protection issues including gender based violence and Child Protection. Information collected from Protection Monitoring aims to further enhance local capacity to address social protection concerns.



Risk Governance through CPCs



The CPCs structure supports arrangements to enhance governance in the social protection sector, particularly in disaster situations. The CPC program supports information gathering and analysis of social protection at community level to foster an understanding of the underlying causes of the risks, needs and strengths. The social protection sector in Tonga is strengthening coordination and collaboration between national, sub-national and community systems to manage the impacts of climate change and disasters.

National Level

MIA is primarily responsible for managing the risks associated with protection both in development and disaster contexts.

- In order for MIA to effectively programme for social protection, regular and reliable information identifying the protection priorities, trends, patterns and services is crucial. Ongoing needs assessments through **Protection Monitoring** will directly inform the national planning to include the different needs and strengths of all community members (including, inter alia, men, women, persons living with disabilities, youth and older people).

Through the CPC structure, MIA is able to effectively consider risk reduction in the social protection preparedness response and recovery phases to a disaster as well as in development planning.

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Sub-National and Community Level

CPCs facilitate a **strong enabling environment** to help communities identify their needs and develop appropriate responses.

- Through protection monitoring toolkits, the CPCs **identify the protection priorities** for their community.
- Through the **community-based protection** function, CPCs strengthen their own responses to protection issues.
- Through better communication channels and connections to government structures and systems, **communities are empowered** to better identify their risks and needs, formulate and implement sustainable responses, and also demand more accountable governance.

Capacity Building

The CPCs program places an emphasis on capacity development to sustain risk management in the context of social protection. This involves intensive capacity building at national, district and community levels to build the systems and knowledge of the needs and strengths of vulnerable groups. Through the CPCs it is expected that, over time, there will be a shift in attitudes surrounding protection issues as a whole (including gender based violence, child abuse and inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups) in disaster situations.

National Level

Capacity development is being integrated systematically in all programming efforts including: technical support to MIA for inception phases and for the development of instruments, tools and monitoring/reporting systems at National Level. The CPCs and Protection Monitoring information will be used by MIA to build capacity of other actors in Tonga on social protection principles, needs, gaps and capacities.

Sub-National and Community Level

The inception phase of the CPCs is a three-layer approach including awareness raising, training, and technical support. The focus on change in mindset of communities in Ha'apai towards protection (including sensitive protection issues) is inextricably linked to all components of the CPCs.

Gender and Social Inclusion (GSI)

By its very nature, the CPCs program has GSI at its core. The CPCs program is fundamentally aimed at ensuring that the concerns of other vulnerable social groups link with existing structures. Enhancing communication channels, generating reliable data, and strengthening community based protection will be invaluable for all actors seeking to integrate GSI in planning and programming.

Partnerships

The CPCs rely heavily on partnership building both at a national and sub-national level. MIA will use the protection monitoring information to generate external reports which will better guide NGOs, CBOs and other sectors to direct services where they are most needed. Similarly, at a sub-national level, CPCs will foster stronger relationships with other actors to support the referral pathways.