

ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2026

Empowered Lives, Resilient Futures

6–8 October • ADB Headquarters, Manila



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Tonga: Translating Aging in Place into Practice

What are the most important lessons from translating aging in place into an operational program in a small-island context with limited workforce and provider capacity?

1 Support caregivers

Training, respite, financial support and home modifications help families sustain care and enable older people to remain at home.

2 Use limited workforce strategically

Strengthen caregiver skills and use community-based services as local anchors linking families with health, social and other support.

3 Build partnerships

Government, health and social services, churches, civil society, communities and families must work together; government provides policy direction, financing, standards and capacity building.

4 Build resilience

Community-based aged care must also account for climate and disaster risks, especially for older people who may be isolated or have limited mobility.

KEY TAKEAWAY • Aging in place does not mean leaving families to manage on their own — it requires an organized system around them.

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