



World Food Programme

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# WFP Pacific Country Brief October 2021



## Operational Context

The 13 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) that WFP covers are home to 10.4 million people across an area of approx. 500,000 square km of land and 27 million sq km of ocean - 6,500 km from east to west and 4,200 km from north to south, which is larger than the size of North America, and scattered over an area equivalent to 15% of the globe's surface. Gross Domestic Product in the Pacific is amongst the lowest in the world and, while levels of poverty differ widely between PICTs, hardship and vulnerability are increasing. The region is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, experiencing an average of three major disasters each year. It is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including sea-level rise, which threatens the existence of some atoll nations, and increasingly frequent and severe climate-related disasters. Evidence shows that pre-existing inequalities mean women and marginalised and vulnerable groups in the Pacific are disproportionately impacted by climate change.

The work of the WFP Pacific Multi Country Office is focused on supporting national governments and government-led clusters across the region to strengthen their emergency preparedness and response capacity in the face of cyclical disaster risks and now also, COVID-19. WFP Pacific's capacity strengthening work is in the sectors of logistics, emergency telecommunications, and food security. In addition, due to the pandemic, WFP Pacific is operating the Pacific Humanitarian Air Service to ensure the movement of humanitarian and medical cargo across the region. In partnership with eight national governments, WFP Pacific is rolling out the mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) to remotely monitor household food security, nutrition and food market related trends in real time and support evidence-based humanitarian decision-making. mVAM data collection supports gender and disability disaggregated analysis.



**Contact info:** Faria Chaudhari ([faria.chaudhuri@wfp.org](mailto:faria.chaudhuri@wfp.org))  
**Director Multi Country Office for the Pacific:** Jo Pilgrim  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/pacific](http://www.wfp.org/countries/pacific)

## Highlights

**US\$ 0.19 m** six months (November 2021-April 2022) net funding requirements

## Operational Updates

- WFP handed over emergency-response equipment valued USD 75,000 to the Fiji National Disaster Management Office ahead of the approaching cyclone season. The Government of Brazil provided funding, mobile warehouses, and telecommunications equipment to enhance disaster preparedness and response activities.

## Country Strategic Planning (CSP)

- Consultations are ongoing with governments, CROP and UN agencies, civil society counterparts and other partners across the Pacific as part of the formulation of the next five-year strategic plan for the WFP Pacific Multi-Country Office. Inputs are also being sought as part of the ongoing review of mVAM in the Pacific.
- The regional Pacific Food Security Cluster (rPFSC) coordination team continue to engage member country governments to better understand their preparedness and response priorities as the Pacific enters its cyclone season. At the regional cluster coordinators' meeting convened by Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), WFP participated as co-lead of the rPFSC together with FAO, and as lead of two other regional clusters (Logistics and ETC), to brief on preparedness measures being taken by cluster members across the Pacific ahead of the cyclone season.
- WFP provided technical support to the Vanuatu Food Security and Agriculture Cluster to review their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and improve the effectiveness of key mechanisms from the cluster's response to TC Harold and the COVID-19 pandemic. WFP also facilitated a lessons learnt workshop on 18-19 October 2021 in Port Vila and a cluster meeting in Santo. Regional partners will have an opportunity to contribute to the final document prior to endorsement by the Vanuatu Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on 10 November 2021.
- WFP in partnership with the Fiji Department for Social Welfare (DSW) are verifying DSW beneficiaries across high climate and disaster risk locations for inclusion in the parametric insurance pilot that will begin 1 November 2021. Information materials including a leaflet and FAQs that explain the product and triggers have been finalised together with the Ministry in preparation for dissemination.

## Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 25.03 m                    | 16.43 m                          | 0.19 m                                      |

## Strategic Result 1: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG target 17.9)

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Vulnerable people in the Pacific island countries and territories receive appropriate, coordinated, timely and uninterrupted assistance to address food security and nutrition challenges following disasters

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Humanitarian Development partners in the Pacific have access to reliable services during crisis

## Activities:

- Through the logistics cluster, provide national disaster management offices and other relevant national and regional institutions and partners with support for improving emergency logistics coordination and supply chain management.
- Through the emergency telecommunications cluster, provide national disaster management offices and other relevant national and regional institutions and partners with support for improving emergency communications infrastructure and coordination mechanisms.
- Through the food security cluster, support national disaster management offices and other relevant national and regional institutions and partners with food security data analysis as well as food security programme response design, coordination and implementation.
- Provide support to national, provincial and regional institutions and other partners for the development of innovative tools and procedures that address climate related disasters and their impact on people.

## Emergency Telecommunications

- WFP is supporting the Disaster and Emergency Preparedness and Response project (D-EPR) to develop a training aimed at strengthening the capacity among ICT/emergency telecommunication professionals in the Pacific to respond to humanitarian crises. Preparation for the online training is ongoing. In October, a "landing page" on the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster website was developed, PowerPoint presentations for session moderators as well as criteria and a process for applications to attend the training were finalised. The training is planned for the first quarter of 2022.

## Challenges

- Border closures and travel restrictions remain in place for most countries in the Pacific making travel among Pacific Island Countries and Territories challenging.

- The Pacific Regional Cash Working Group has developed a tool with the support of WFP and CashCap to conduct a perception survey. This survey will help formulate the working group's strategy from 2022-2025. The tool will be finalised in November and outcomes shared with partners.

## Logistics

- WFP continued to promote the use of the Pacific Stockpile Mapping Tool (PALM) with partners in preparation for the cyclone season. PALM is an online platform created by WFP and Pacific Logistics Cluster for mapping and strategic stockpiling of humanitarian contingency stocks across the Pacific. WFP presented PALM to the Pacific Logistics Cluster and Pacific Cluster Coordinators Meeting as well as provided training to UNICEF and IFRC on the use of the tool.
- A consultant has been recruited to support revision of logistics capacity assessments (LCA) in the Pacific and will start working remotely from New Zealand due to ongoing border closure in the Pacific. Initial engagement will be with Tuvalu to undertake the country's first national LCA.
- WFP's [Donate Responsibly](#) campaign to reduce the influx of Unsolicited Bilateral Donations sent to the Pacific after a disaster, is online to coincide with the South Pacific cyclone season.

## Air Service

- The Pacific Humanitarian Air Service conducted two cargo flights in October. One flight carried 13.4 mt of critical oxygen concentrators and medical supplies for WHO, from China to Fiji.
- The second flight operated from Fiji to Kiribati and transported 2.6 mt of urgent non-COVID vaccines for UNICEF, cargo for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), UNDP and WHO including oxygen concentrators and consumables, medical supplies, and equipment.
- Discussions were held with DFAT to explore opportunities for improved collaboration between the Pacific Humanitarian Air Service and DFAT's Pacific Flights Programme.

## Donors

Australia, BHA/USAID, EU

Photo Page 1: Jo Pilgrim, Director, WFP Pacific Multi-Country Office (MCO), handed over US\$75,000 in emergency equipment to the Hon. Minister Inia Seruiratu, to assist the Fiji NDMO. Photo credit: WFP Pacific, 8 October 2021.