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 square 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, with gender and disability disaggregated analysis, to support evidence-based humanitarian decision-making.

Highlights

US$ 780,000 six months (February-July 2022) net funding requirements

A volcanic eruption triggered a tsunami in Tonga on 15 January 2022, causing damage, and destruction on the island. The volcano erupted about 70km northwest of the capital city of Nuku'alofa, sending clouds of ash into the atmosphere and tsunami waves from the volcanic origin. The event affected 84,000 people (84 percent of the total population) in the country placing them in need of emergency humanitarian assistance. Both international and domestic communications were interrupted, and the Government declared a state of emergency. Telecommunications was identified as a top priority in the response, along with other major concerns for safe drinking water, impact on agricultural livelihoods and health impacts of the airborne ash on the population. WFP, together with humanitarian partners in Tonga are supporting the Government in their immediate relief and recovery response efforts, mainly in the logistics and communications activities.

Food Security & Livelihoods

- WFP as the co-lead of the regional Pacific Food Security Cluster with FAO facilitated the first regional Pacific Food Security Cluster (rPFSC) meeting of 2022 on January 18 to update members on the Tonga tsunami and volcanic eruption. The cluster has been finalising food safety guidelines for communities in response to the impact of ash on fresh produce and open water sources in Tonga.
- WFP continued to liaise with the Tonga National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) and the Tonga Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests to better understand the level of food insecurity assistance provided as well as to identify the needs and gaps in the assistance provided to the affected populations. The damages and production losses to the agriculture sector were estimated at roughly USD 17 million.
- WFP also released the most recent mobile Vulnerability and Analysis Mapping for Tonga covering November 2021 - January 2022. The analysis highlights that 20 percent of Tongan families had insufficient food consumption, and food insecurity was more pronounced in rural areas than in urban areas with insufficient food consumption levels at 23.3 percent for rural and 14.2 percent for urban areas at the end of 2021.
- WFP and ILO discussed the possibility for collaboration in Tonga, for a joint impact assessment on markets, nutrition, food security and livelihoods in response to the volcanic eruption and tsunami.
**WFP Country Strategy**

**Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27.65 m</td>
<td>15.51 m</td>
<td>0.78 m</td>
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**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.

- WFP provided technical support to the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture in response to Tropical Cyclone Cody and subsequent flooding in the western and northern divisions, using GIS analysis and capacity mapping to inform response and recovery planning.
- Under the Parametric Insurance Project, WFP, in coordination with the Fiji Ministry of Women and Children, has shared the details for 275 recipients with UNCDF for verification and registration. The beneficiaries of the pilot are residents of high-risk areas in the western and central division, and include pregnant women, elderly, households with children under the age of 5.
- The Pacific Regional Cash Working Group (PRCWG) compiled the cash and voucher assistance profiles of 14 Pacific Islands Countries, covering transfer modalities, distribution mechanisms, financial service providers, financial services and organizations involved in cash and voucher assistance. The draft has been shared with members for feedback. The PRCWG continued its regular coordination with stakeholders, including the consideration of cash and voucher assistance as a response modality in the Tonga response.

**Logistics**
- The Pacific Logistics Cluster sent five Mobile Storage Units to Tonga to support storage capacities for humanitarian relief at Tonga’s ports and airports. Additionally, the cluster provided general coordination support for the Tonga emergency by facilitating information sharing on the details of humanitarian items requested, delivered into the country, and committed by partners and governments; modes of transport used; and the prioritization of most-needed items for transport.
- A WFP Pacific initiative, the [Donate Responsibly](#) campaign was activated to raise awareness about responsible ways of donating to help affected people in Tonga to recover faster and better.
- WFP continued to report on relief items prepositioned in the region by partners through the Pacific Logistics Mapping Tool (PALM). Regular support to partners continued, through the publication of monthly transport service updates and integration with the Cargo Entry Point Update (CEPU) Map available [here](#).

**Air Service**
- The Pacific Humanitarian Air Service remained on standby to assist the response of the Tonga volcano eruption. Unfortunately, due to volcanic ash on the runway, civil charter aircraft were unable to operate in Tonga. WFP Aviation provided technical and coordination support to the logistics cluster and to partners with cargo and transport requirements.

**Emergency Telecommunications**
- ETC has been collaborating with USPNet on the deployment of satellite internet capacity at the University of South Pacific Tongatapu Campus for use by humanitarian responders in Tonga.
- Coordination continued with donors and partners for the provision of remote technical support to Tonga NEMO for the deployment of BGANS and Iridium Satellite communications systems.
- Preparations for the Regional Disaster-Emergency Preparedness Response training for ICT professionals to be held in February 2022 were finalised.

**Challenges**
- Limited communications and connectivity, continue to hamper coordination and assistance efforts for Tonga, and access to information and make needs analysis difficult. Travel restrictions due to the pandemic remain an obstacle in communicating with member country cluster leads.

**Donors**
- Australia, BHA/USAID, EU

*Photo Page 1: January 17, the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcano eruption. Photo Credit: EYPRESS*