



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Pacific Country Brief April 2022



Photo credit: Communications Pp. Jaffar

### 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.



## Highlights

**US\$ 0** six months (May-October 2022) net funding requirements

### Food Security & Livelihoods

- The regional Pacific Food Security Cluster (rPFSC) coordinated activities to support knowledge sharing between members, at inter-cluster level and with the Global Cluster. The rPFSC has reviewed the capacity strengthening workplan to be implemented in the second half the year upon arrival of the incoming rPFSC coordinator.
- The rPFSC continued to reach out to active national and regional partners in Tonga to collect and collate information on food security, livelihoods, agriculture, and fisheries data to understand the overall situation and determine gaps to ensure a more informed and effective response. The rPFSC continues to provide updates as Tonga transitions from response to recovery activities.
- WFP together with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) launched the official hand-over of Climate Risk Insurance pilot certificates for Fiji's Department of Social Welfare (DSW) recipients to the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (MWCPA). The launch signified the successful partnership between WFP Pacific and the Government of Fiji and identified potential entry-points for scale-up and further discussions on technical capacity strengthening.
- The Pacific Regional Cash Working Group (PRCWG) conducted its fourth Community of Practice Meeting for Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in Tonga. Key points of discussion included the rapid market assessment report, mapping of cash sites and 3Ws, and CVA partner activity planning.
- The PRCWG Response dashboard based on 3Ws of partners in January was presented at the first quarterly meeting. The dashboard acts as a visibility product as well as a decision support tool for partners. This and other tools and resources can be accessed on the PRCWG webpage [here](#).

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## Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>28.17 m</b>	<b>16.54 m</b>	<b>0.00 m</b>

### 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.

## Logistics

- The Pacific Regional Logistics Cluster's monthly coordination meeting was held jointly with the COVID-19 Joint Incident Management Team's (JIMT) Logistics Pillar meeting. The meeting was attended by donors, government and private sector representatives, United Nations agencies and INGOs.
- Recovery efforts in Tonga continue to be affected by COVID-19 lockdown restrictions though partners on the ground are able to operate.
- As a growing number of Pacific Island Countries and Territories open their borders to international travel after more than two years of closure, the Pacific Regional Logistics Cluster has discontinued its operations webpage which had been activated for the pandemic response.
- Five mobile storage units (MSU) and five generators were urgently requested by the Tonga National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) for the Tonga response to

enhance storage capacity for relief items and recovery building materials. WFP has procured the items and transported them on 21 April 2022.

- WFP is continuing a tender process for a Long-Term Agreement with an international freight forwarder and logistics company to support the import and export of emergency relief items being pre-positioned in the Palladium warehouse in Brisbane.
- Work continues with Fiji's National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) on updating the Fiji Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) and with Tuvalu authorities and partners on conducting a Tuvalu LCA.
- As of end-April, the cluster warehouse in Nadi held approximately 243 cubic metres of stock on behalf of four agencies – the Pacific Island Forum (PIFS), UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO.

## Air Service

- WFP conducted a Pacific Humanitarian Air Service flight from Brisbane to Tonga on 21 April 2022 to transport MSUs and generators (6kVA) as per a request from the Tonga NEMO.

## Emergency Telecommunications

- WFP is re-assessing connectivity needs to support Tonga till the end of the year, which is the expected timeframe for the restoration of the country's domestic submarine cable. WFP is currently supporting the Tonga response, with existing VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminals) and other satellite service providers to build a solution till the end of the year.
- WFP is conducting a post-training analysis of the Disaster-Emergency Preparedness and Response training held in February 2022, in effort to adjust the content of the training and to potentially organize a second iteration with either a blended or full classroom participation element.

## Challenges:

Limited communications and connectivity, together with travel restrictions, continue to hamper coordination and assistance efforts for Tonga and access to information and make needs analysis difficult. Travel restrictions due to the pandemic continue to impact communicating with member country cluster leads.

## Donors:

Australia, BHA/USAID, EU, Japan, CERF, SRAC

*Photo: 22 April, Suva- Fiji's Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation in partnership with WFP and UNCDF presented the social welfare beneficiaries with their climate risk insurance certificates.*