**Operational Context**

The 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) that WFP covers are home to 10.4 million people across an area of approximately 500,000 km² of land and 27 million km² of ocean - 6,500 km from east to west and 4,200 km from north to south, larger than the size of North America, and scattered over an area equivalent to 15 percent 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 marginalized 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 security. In addition, due to the pandemic, WFP Pacific is operating the Pacific Humanitarian Air Service to ensure the movement of 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.

**Operational Updates**

**Food Security and Livelihoods**

- For the first time in Samoa, WFP's Research and Analysis Monitoring (RAM) team conducted a technical inception workshop on **Critical Markets Assessments** in partnership with the University of South Pacific. The workshop is part of a partnership project to improve mapping and assessments of critical markets to secure household food security in Fiji and Samoa. Held in Apia on 4-5 August, the workshop brought together key stakeholders from the agriculture, food security and market sectors in Samoa.

- As part of WFP’s capacity strengthening programmes in Samoa, the RAM team also conducted a two-day technical training for government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Bureau of Statistics. The technical training will support effective data collection, visualization and streamlining of the data management systems for the ministries.

- To support the Government of Kiribati’s ongoing drought response, WFP developed a drought emergency assessment form for the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development. WFP provided a technical training to the agricultural officers to effectively collect and manage data. This will enable an assessment of community-level information about the impact of the drought and accurately inform the Government about the food security status and immediate needs of the population.

- The Pacific Regional Cash Working Group, co-chaired by WFP, published its **2022-2025 Strategy** with the endorsement of all members and partners. **CashCap** supported the development of the Strategy, following a six-month consultative process with key informant interviews, decision makers’ workshops, focus group discussions, a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis, a perception survey and desk reviews.

- The Pacific Regional Cash Working Group developed and published a **Programme Quality Toolbox on Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)**. This contains links to general CVA tools and templates that provide information on preparedness and anticipatory action, assessments, analysis, implementation setup, distribution, and monitoring and evaluation.
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2022)

<table>
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<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<td>28.17 m</td>
<td>17.15 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

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.

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

Logistics
- Fiji’s Minister for Defence and National Security, the Honourable Mr Inia Seruiratu, invited WFP’s logistics team to visit a warehouse facility in Black Rock Nadi, managed by the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF), to discuss potential collaboration.
- The WFP-led Pacific Logistics Cluster organized a critical and pan-Pacific Humanitarian Logistics Management workshop in Suva on 8-12 August, to strengthen the capacities of first responders in preparation for the upcoming Pacific cyclone season. Fifty participants from 23 organizations representing Pacific governments, National Management Disaster Offices (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu), donors, NGOs, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and National Red Cross Societies, the private sector, and the UN community attended this workshop that covered emergency coordination, preparedness, warehousing, custom processes, among others.
- The WFP-managed Logistics Cluster warehouse in Nadi helps store and preposition goods for humanitarian partners to deploy when needed. In August, the warehouse began with 24.1 mt or 200.4 m³ of cargo in storage. Throughout the month, it received a total of 0.3 mt or 1.2 m³ of stock and released 2.2 mt or 12.5 m³ of medical equipment and supplies. At the end of the month, there were 22.2 mt or 189.1 m³ of stock remaining on behalf of United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO).

Aviation
- There were no Pacific Humanitarian Air Service flights in August. As global supply chains are starting to resume standard-level operations, and with a relative increase in the availability of commercial flights, the demand for the humanitarian air service is declining.
- However, with the cyclone season approaching, and in view of the sparse PICTs only now reopening borders, WFP extended the Pacific Humanitarian Air Service until March 2023, to ensure an urgent regional response to transport relief in case of emergencies.

Emergency Telecommunications (ETC)
- WFP, as the lead of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster in Tonga, is supporting emergency preparedness and critical infrastructure rebuilding, following the volcanic eruption in early 2022. WFP delivered six critically needed iridium satellite voice communications equipment for Tonga’s Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MIDECC) and is finalizing the procurement for an Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) training planned for September. WFP is also coordinating a capacity assessment on information and communications technology (ICT) and provision of high frequency radio training for Tonga’s MIDECC.
- WFP delivered a key address on improving disaster preparedness in the Pacific at the Asia Pacific Telecommunity 15th Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific in Vanuatu.
- Following a successful pilot of the Disaster Emergency Preparedness and Response (D-EPR) training course early this year, WFP is developing a follow-up course for ICT professionals in the Pacific, in collaboration with the Global ETC training and development team and the previous D-EPR content developers and training facilitators in New Zealand.

Donors
Australia, Japan, private donors, the Republic of Fiji, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), other United Nations funds and agencies, and the United States of America.

Photo credit: Participants at the Humanitarian Logistics Workshop work on a simulation exercise in Suva. ©WFP