



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Pacific Country Brief September 2022



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 COVID-19. WFP Pacific's capacity strengthening work is in the areas 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 (mVAM) 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: WFP.PacificMCO@wfp.org

Country Director, Multi Country-Office for the Pacific: Alpha Bah

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/pacific

Highlights

US\$1.33 million six months (October 2022-March 2023) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Food Security and Livelihoods

- The first Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Brisbane on 19-22 September. WFP Pacific Multi-Country Director, Mr. Alpha Bah, presented WFP's current scope of work including its potential role in contributing to the agenda for anticipatory action in the Pacific. The Conference brought together United Nations member states, intergovernmental organizations, international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and stakeholder groups, to accelerate progress on disaster risk reduction. The outcomes from the conference also set the stage for the Pacific strategy at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27).
- In drought-stricken Kiribati, WFP continued to support the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development (MELAD) and undertook a mission to assess the impact of the drought on the food security situation. This included training government officers, provision of ICT equipment, and consultations with national stakeholders including the MELAD, the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), the Kiribati National Expert Group (KNEG) on climate change and disaster risk management, and Vodafone.
- As part of WFP's capacity strengthening programme in Samoa, WFP continued to work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on the design of a quarterly production assessment and provided ICT equipment to the Ministry.
- The WFP-led Pacific Regional Cash Working Group was represented at the CashCap Learning Workshop in Oslo on 18-24 September. The event brought together cash coordination experts to share and exchange knowledge on cash-based assistance.

Aviation

- With the reopening of borders and resumption of commercial air services to pre-pandemic levels, the demand for the Pacific Humanitarian Air Service (PHAS) has been relatively low. No flights were operated in September.
- To commemorate two-years of the air service operating in the Pacific region, WFP is planning to organise an anniversary event in October in Fiji.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
28.17 m	17.15 m	1.33 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.

Logistics

- WFP commenced its Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) update in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). In Vanuatu, a similar Capacity Needs Mapping field assessment also began in September, as part of a broader initiative to build a long-term supply chain capacity strengthening roadmap for the region.
- Ahead of the upcoming South Pacific Cyclone season, WFP logistics team initiated emergency preparedness actions including prepositioning of relief items and building its internal capacity by recruiting an emergency preparedness consultant, and a national preparedness officer.
- The Pacific Logistics Cluster, in collaboration with HELP LOGISTICS, launched an online training – ‘Medical Logistics in Pandemics’ – in the Pacific with over hundred partner registrations. This 15-hour online training aimed to equip aid workers and health staff with essential logistics and supply chain knowledge in the context of medical operations. Topics covered included medical supply chains in the humanitarian context; medical supply chain good practices; navigating

humanitarian supply chains during a pandemic; and cold chain and vaccine logistics.

- To support the prepositioning needs and coordination mechanisms of partners, WFP’s logistics team manages online platforms that offer stockholders a visual representation of the prepositioned relief items. WFP has now migrated from the PALM platform to STOCKHOLM platform that will further help reduce gaps and overlaps in emergency preparedness and improve coordination among humanitarian actors.
- The WFP-managed cluster warehouse in Nadi helps store and preposition goods for humanitarian partners to deploy when needed. In September, the warehouse had 22.5 mt or 194.1m³ of cargo in storage. Throughout the month, a total of 4.4 mt or 34.1 m³ of goods from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) were released. At the end of the month, there was 160m³ or 18.1 mt of items stored on behalf of WHO.

Emergency Telecommunications

- In Tonga, WFP is supporting the Government to develop capacities in the use of Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS)/drones in emergency preparedness and response. The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) team undertook a mission to Tonga, trained and certified five government personnel with a Civil Aviation Authority - Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) license. The ETC team also helped develop a policy outline with Tonga Civil Aviation authorities to help regulate and build on drone industry standards in the country.
- WFP’s stand-by partner is conducting an ICT capacity assessment in Tonga. The outcomes will provide valuable insights on areas where additional long-term capacity strengthening support is needed. The stand-by partner is also coordinating with the technical team from Tonga’s Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC) on strengthening emergency preparedness capacities in the country.
- WFP is preparing for a second iteration of the ETC’s Disaster and Emergency Preparedness and Response (D-EPR) training course for ICT professionals in the Pacific. This D-EPR course will be tailored to include policy and regulatory decision-making processes within the governments’ ICT and telecommunication mechanisms.

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: 23 Sept, Kiribati: WFP hands over tablets to the Department of Agriculture and Livestock to digitalize data collection on the impacts of the ongoing drought.