



## February 2023

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



The 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) that WFP covers are home to 10.4 million people across an area of approx. 500,000 km<sup>2</sup> of land and 27 million km<sup>2</sup> 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.



Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/pacific](http://www.wfp.org/countries/pacific)

On 15 February, WFP as the co-lead of the Pacific Regional Cash Working Group (PRCWG) joined forces with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to boost preparedness capacities and organized a training on "Working with Service Providers". The training session focused on creating framework agreements with financial service providers. The event saw participation from 10 ADRA members and 1 Oxfam representative.

- WFP kicked-off a new round of data collection on food security, livelihoods and nutrition using its **mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM)** tool in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu. The data collected through this tool can inform evidence-based decision making and policy interventions.
- In February, WFP produced a [Price Monitoring Bulletin for Fiji](#). This provides an annual overview of inflation, currency changes, and food and fuel Price trends for 2022. This has been shared with our partners and stakeholders.
- In **Tonga**, WFP's Research, Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) team conducted a mission in 14–18 February. The team met with Tonga's Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forests and Fisheries and government statisticians to enhance cooperation and partnership in data collection and analysis, including using WFP's mVAM to monitor food security, nutrition, and livelihoods remotely. The team organized an mVAM contextualization workshop with government officers on 16 Feb, and an in-person training for Digicel enumerators on Feb 17th.
- In **Tuvalu**, in the last week of February the RAM team undertook a mission to conduct a government capacity strengthening workshop on data collection and visualization as part of the Joint United Nations Sustainable Development Fund Project. The RAM team also travelled to **Kiribati** on 27 February to provide technical support to the Government in conducting the drought assessments.
- WFP, in partnership with the University of the South Pacific, continued joint activities on measuring the capacity and functionality of markets in Fiji, using the [Market Functionality Index \(MFI\)](#). This aimed to refine a [Minimum Expenditure Basket \(MEB\)](#) for Fiji and define the cost for an average household to meet its food and non-food essential needs; inform the ability of markets to meet households' demands; and whether households have the economic capacity to meet any rise in prices.
- WFP organized the first Tonga National Cash Working Group meeting for 2023. A Tonga focal point was selected at this meeting and the group shared organizational priorities and lessons learned from cash distribution in 2022. Also, an updated interactive [Pacific Cash and Voucher Assistance Dashboard](#) for the year 2022 has been published by the Pacific Cash Working Group.

## WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)		
Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six Months Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
31.38 m	21.1 m	0.6 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 has finalized the Standard Operating Procedures for storing and dispatching items at the Palladium Warehouse in Brisbane.
- An update on the [LOGIE Pacific](#) was published with the Cargo Entry points and Situation Monitoring information from the ADAM (automatic disaster analysis mapping). The LOGIE platform is designed to improve coordination, information sharing, and quantity and quality of the data available in emergency response and preparedness.
- WFP is developing and contextualizing the Fiji National Logistics Cluster Terms of Reference upon request from the Fiji NDMO.
- WFP met with Rotary Fiji to introduce the [STOCKHOLM](#) platform to help register them and add their prepositioned stocks to the database.

## Aviation

- As commercial aviation networks resume to pre-pandemic level operations, no requests were made for any Pacific Humanitarian Air Service flights in the month of February.

## Emergency Telecommunications (ETC)

- WFP successfully conducted test calls using Push To Talk satellite communication with the Fiji NDMO and with the Tonga National Emergency Management Office.
- WFP has completed the prepositioning of all rapidly deployable assets for the Pacific region. These include satellite phones and satellite communication SIM cards with paid subscription services.
- WFP is supporting the development of and contextualizing the Fiji National Emergency Telecommunications Cluster Training and Development needs, upon request from the Fiji NDMO.
- WFP has initiated ICT Capacity Assessments (ICA) in the Northern Pacific. The ICA for Palau has been completed. The ICA for the Republic of Micronesia (RMI) has also begun and is going to be completed in March. ICAs for Tuvalu and the Federated States of Micronesia will also commence in March. A blog on the Palau ICA by our technical expert can be [here](#).

## Partnerships

- WFP held consultations with the governments of the United States and Australia on its new Multi-Country Strategic Plan for 2023- 2027.
- **In Fiji**, WFP Country Director Mr Alpha Bah and Deputy-Country Director Ms Emma Conlan paid a courtesy visit to the Honourable Ms. Lynda Tabuya, the new incoming Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation. WFP reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with the Ministry and leaving no one behind, in the face of multi-hazard shocks and stressors. The WFP Country Director also paid a courtesy visit to Fiji's new incoming Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, the Honorable Sakiasi Ditoka reaffirming WFP's partnership to work with Ministry to prepare for and respond to disasters, under the government leadership.
- In the **Federated States of Micronesia**, WFP Country Director and Representative attended the opening ceremony of the 21<sup>st</sup> Micronesian Presidents Summit on 15 February in Pohpei and met with donors and partners in the country. **In Tonga**, Mr Bah attended the Development Partners Forum on 28 February.

## 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:** The WFP Delegation with the Honorable Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Ms Lynda Tabuya and Assistant Minister, Ms Sashi Kiran.*