



World Food Programme

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WFP Pacific Country Brief June 2023

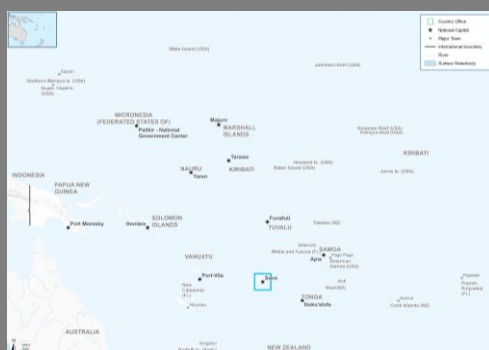


Operational Context

The Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) are among the most hazard-prone regions in the world, with eight out of the 20 nations with the highest average disaster losses being in the Pacific. In 2023, the Pacific region continues to experience a series of significant natural hazards, including rapid-onset events such as the twin cyclones in Vanuatu. Despite the reopening of borders after the prolonged COVID-19 lockdown, the PICTs are reeling from the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic. The situation is further exacerbated by the impacts of the global food crisis, which pose imminent threats to food security and nutrition across PICTs.

Analysis indicates the PICTs are not on track to reach any of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030, including SDG 2 on Zero Hunger. This is in part driven by growing inequality, including gender inequality and public services that are insufficient to address poverty and improve education and health outcomes, against the backdrop of the climate crisis with increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events.

In July 2023, WFP Pacific Multi-Country Office starts its new Multi-Country Strategic Plan (MCSP) 2023-2027, which is aligned with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-2027), and its related two-year country implementation plans. WFP will focus on its enabling agenda through strengthening the capacities of regional and national stakeholders from 14 PICTs for emergency preparedness and response in the areas of logistics, emergency telecommunications and anticipatory action, including inclusive and accessible shock-responsive social protection systems that focus on those most at risk of being left behind. WFP continues to ramp up its efforts in supporting PICT governments in addressing the significant data gaps in food security and nutrition, which is reflected as a central theme of the new MCSP.



Highlights

- The new Multi-Country Strategic Plan (MCSP) (2023-2027) for the Pacific was approved by the Executive Board on 29 June. WFP has assigned a staff in the One UN Office in Apia, Samoa, to coordinate and oversee WFP activities in Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau.
- WFP updated the ICT capacity assessments for Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, providing insights on ICT policies, strategies and capacities to mitigate the impacts of disasters. Furthermore, WFP strengthened its partnership with the University of the South Pacific to conduct market assessments in Fiji and strengthen data-informed decision making.

Operational Updates Food Security

- The WFP co-led Regional Pacific Food Security Cluster (RPFSC) completed its annual coordination mapping exercise. This is aligned with the Regional Coordination and Partnerships strategic objective of the Pacific Food Security Cluster. It captures the presence, activities, and capacities of cluster members, and the responses delivered to populations in affected areas.
- WFP conducted a Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographical Information System (GIS) training for land mapping in the **Solomon Islands** for the Land Planning Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture. WFP provided ten GPS devices to the Ministry to strengthen its capacity and support access to data for sustainable agriculture and improved livelihoods.
- WFP conducted a Kobo Toolbox training with the **Fiji** Ministry of Agriculture and Bureau of Statistics on 12 June. The training aimed at strengthening the capacity to support data-informed decision making on food security.
- WFP met with the **Vanuatu** Ministry of Agriculture to discuss innovative ways to monitor national food security. The parties discussed the development of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to support the work on data management, national food security cluster and national food security policy.
- WFP extended its MoU with the University of the South Pacific to conduct market assessments until December 2023. The research assists with the establishment of the minimum expenditure baskets for households in **Fiji**. Data on food availability, cost and market variety were collected and analysed through this initiative to strengthen data-informed decision making.
- WFP finalized an MoU with the Samoa Ministry of Agriculture to support the Agricultural Production Survey. The survey is scheduled to be implemented in November and aims to enhance decision making on food security in **Samoa**.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
49.32 m	21.3 m	2.74 m

**Net funding requirements as per new MCSP*

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.

Social Protection & Anticipatory Action

- The WFP co-led Pacific Regional Cash Working Group (PRCWG) discussed the national cash working groups and the Core Cash-Voucher-Assistance (CVA) staff training during its quarterly meeting on 8 June. The CVA staff trainings sensitized partners and service providers on the minimum preparedness actions, emergency readiness actions, and standard operating procedures for potential cash and voucher emergency responses.
- WFP participated in the inaugural Fiji Cash Working Group (CWG) meeting led by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (MWCPA). The meeting aimed to provide updates on the MCWPA's reform agenda, provide updates from the PRCWG, and present the CERF-funded pilot project on Anticipatory Action in Fiji. WFP updated the members on its coordinating role on Anticipatory Action work in Fiji. WFP will provide support to enhancing the coping capacities of vulnerable communities and mitigate the impacts of climate-related shocks before they occur.

Logistics

- WFP participated in the Fiji Inter-Cluster meeting on 29 June hosted by the Fiji National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). The meeting focused on the preparation for the inaugural National Emergency Response Team (NERT) induction training to be held in Lautoka from 2 to 9. WFP will be facilitating specialized sessions on humanitarian logistics and emergency telecommunications in disaster response
- WFP has completed the concept note for the establishment of the Women in Logistics Network. The network will focus on strengthening the capacity of women in logistics coordination, warehouse and inventory management, transportation, procurement, leadership and problem-solving.

Emergency Telecommunications

- WFP released the ICT capacity assessment reports for **Palau** and the **Republic of the Marshall Islands** (RMI). The capacity assessment reports provide an overview of the ICT landscape of the two countries and their capacities to mitigate impacts of disasters. The reports are based on evaluation of national policies, strategies, and capacities and were shared with their respective National Disaster Management Offices.
- WFP provided technical support to review the training manual and plan for the July 2023 Fiji NERT induction training. NERT is Fiji's surge emergency preparedness and response initiative.

Partnerships

- To deepen its engagement in the region and in line with its new Multi-Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027), WFP hired and deployed a new staff to the One UN Office in Apia, **Samoa**, to coordinate and oversee WFP activities in **Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, and Tokelau**.

Donors

The European Union, Japan, 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:

WFP Pacific conducted a GPS and GIS training for land mapping with the Land Planning Unit of the Solomon Islands Ministry of Agriculture and Bureau of Statistics on 12 June 2023.

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