

WFP Pacific Country Brief July 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 started 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 the 14 country implementation plans representing the main strategic engagement between the United Nations development system and Pacific governments. 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, disaster risk management and food security, 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 a central theme of the new MCSP.



Highlights

- WFP began the implementation of its new Multi-Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027) in July, following the approval by the WFP Executive Board in June. The plan focuses on supporting PICT governments and regional organisations in effective disaster risk management and coordination, better collection and analysis of food security and nutrition data, and more inclusive social protection systems, with a contingency for service delivery to support national disaster response efforts.
- WFP supported the facilitation of the Fiji National Emergency Response Team training coordinated by the Fiji National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). The training comprised sessions and simulations on crises, extreme weather events and conflicts, aiming to equip national and regional stakeholders with best practices, standards and methodologies to effectively respond in emergencies.

Operational Updates

Food Security

- WFP's recently published [Price Monitoring Bulletin \(Mid-Year Review 2023\)](#) provides an overview of the inflation and exchange rates, food and fuel prices and other economic trends in the country. According to the bulletin, despite the rate of growth of inflation slowing down towards the end of 2022, food prices kept rising during the first trimester of 2023. Food insecurity and vulnerability levels of the most vulnerable groups have worsened, as demonstrated by decreased rates of food consumption score (by 13 percentage points, compared with September 2022) and the adoption of emergency coping strategies such as reducing expenses on health, spending savings and borrowing money for food to satisfy their essential needs.
- WFP supported the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture with a sampling strategy and questionnaire design for the Ministry's Strategic Development Plan (SDP) baseline data collection. The SDP encompasses the strategic priority goals and key development targets for the Agriculture Sector in Fiji. Collecting baseline data enables close monitoring of the results framework during the SDP implementation.
- WFP conducted the Market Functionality Index data collection from 5 to 11 July, in Samoa together with the University of the South Pacific and the Ministry of Agriculture. The index measures the market capacity, and generates critical baseline evidence against the impact of extreme weather conditions and socio-economic shocks.
- WFP supported the Samoa Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries with the Agricultural Production Survey's questionnaire design. The survey will provide a wealth of information for stakeholders to make evidence-based decisions in the agriculture sector in Samoa.

WFP Country Strategy

Country strategic plan (2023-2027)

Total requirement (in USD)	Allocated contributions (in USD)	Six-month net funding requirements (in USD)
49.3 m	3.3 m	2.9 m

Strategic result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)

Strategic outcome 1: By 2027 governments and regional stakeholders in the Pacific have strengthened systems and capacity to reduce vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance for emergency preparedness and response in logistics, supply chains and emergency telecommunications to governments and regional stakeholders.
- Work with governments and regional stakeholders to strengthen their capacity to understand, anticipate, mitigate and reduce the impact of disasters and long-term climate change on the food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable populations.

Strategic result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs (SDG Target 17.16)

Strategic outcome 2: Humanitarian and development partners in the Pacific have access to reliable services during crisis.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provide logistics services to nationally- and regionally-led emergency responses.
- Provide emergency telecommunications services to nationally- and regionally-led emergency responses.
- Provide on-demand services to nationally- and regionally-led emergency responses.

Emergency Telecommunication

- In July, WFP conducted an ICT Capacity Assessment (ICA) for Vanuatu with support from the National ETC and Resident Coordinator's Office teams in July and the ICA reports for the Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga and Tuvalu were released. The exercise provided an overview of the ICT landscape and insights into how communications technologies are leveraged in response to any potential disaster, as well as to mitigate the impact of disasters in the country.
- WFP led classroom and simulation sessions on emergency telecommunications during the Fiji National Emergency Response Team induction training. The training sessions familiarized participants with the theory and hands-on practice on emergency telecommunication equipment usage and protocols, strengthening their ability to comply with safety requirements.

Photo credit:

WFP Pacific Multi-Country Office staff at the Emergency Telecommunications Capacity Strengthening session in Lautoka, Fiji, during the National Emergency Response Team Induction Training

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Logistics

- WFP supported the facilitation of the Fiji National Emergency Response Team training from 2 to 7 July in Fiji. The training covered a comprehensive set of topics including disaster and emergency management arrangement at the national and regional levels, international humanitarian system, relief intervention, disaster needs assessment and analysis, humanitarian logistics, emergency telecommunication, as well as safety and security. The training equipped the first responders with tools and a methodology for disaster response, and enhanced their interoperability with different agencies at all levels.
- WFP facilitated consultation on the humanitarian logistics upskilling learning programme with NDMO Republic of Marshall Islands and NDMO Nauru on 13 and 18 July. Both offices recognized WFP's comparative advantage in building regional capacities in humanitarian and emergency logistics and suggested to address this gap through the learning programme in the Pacific region.
- From 25 to 27 July, WFP co-developed and participated in the Long Reach exercise for Kiribati organized by the Australian Civil-Military Coordination office from 25 to 27 July. The exercise brought together stakeholders from key ministries and agencies, including the Maritime and Police Department, the Ministry of Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, and the Pacific Disability Forum. WFP highlighted its strengths in Logistics Capacity Assessment, ICT capacity assessment (ICA), Capacity Needs Mapping, and mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping, which created spaces for further partnerships in the areas of ETC, food security and social protection.

Social Protection

- WFP hired the consultancy firm Oxford Policy Management to conduct key informant interviews for a Social Protection Scoping Study in Fiji. Interviews involved key stakeholders, including the Government, civil society, donors and UN Agencies. The study will support WFP in advancing social protection in the region by identifying WFP's value addition and comparative advantage, and outlining entry points.
- WFP is working closely with the Department of Social Welfare within the Fiji Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection for the UN-CERF Anticipatory Action pilot project, which seeks to provide cash to social welfare beneficiaries through the existing government system in advance of a cyclone.

Donors

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