



Operational Context

The Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) are among the most hazard-prone regions, with eight out of the 20 nations with the highest average disaster losses being in the Pacific. In 2023, the region continues to experience significant natural hazards, including rapid-onset events such as the twin cyclones in Vanuatu. The PICTs are still reeling from the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic-induced lockdown. This situation is exacerbated by the global food crisis. Analysis indicates the PICTs are not on track to reach any Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030. 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.

In July 2023, WFP started a 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 strengthening the capacities of regional and national stakeholders for emergency preparedness and response in 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.



Highlights

On 24 October, Category 4 Tropical Cyclone Lola (TC Lola) made landfall in Vanuatu. WFP's Pacific Multi-Country Office was in contact with the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), the national Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer to understand the needs. WFP deployed three supply chain and logistics specialists to the Vanuatu NDMO to provide technical support and provided necessary telecommunications equipment requested by the Government to support assessments.

Operational Updates

Supply Chain

- In response to TC Lola, WFP deployed three logistics specialists to the Vanuatu NDMO to provide technical support and advice in logistics and information management.
- WFP completed the update of the [Vanuatu Logistics Capacity Assessment \(LCA\)](#) and shared with partners before TC Lola made landfall in Vanuatu. The LCA provided first responders with the latest information about the logistics capacity related to humanitarian emergency preparedness and response, covering logistics infrastructure, processes and regulations, suppliers, and contacts.
- From 12 – 18 October, WFP supported the 2023 Fiji National Disaster Awareness Week (NDAW) event held by Fiji NDMO. WFP provided information to generate the [ADAM dashboard](#) for the earthquake and tsunami simulation exercise, which aimed to test disaster response and provide recommendations to update the tsunami response plan. WFP participated in the Disaster Risk Reduction Exhibition where school students and communities gained an understanding of disaster preparedness and response.
- WFP updated the [LogIE](#) platform with the supply chain country capacity strengthening (CCS) activities. The LogIE platform is a tool developed by the Global Logistics Cluster, aiming to inform key logistics partners on the CCS activities in the country or region.

Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (ETC)

- In response to TC Lola in Vanuatu, WFP dispatched three satellite phones and five prepaid SIMs upon request from the Vanuatu NDMO. This assisted the disaster assessment teams to communicate in the field.
- The [Pacific ETC Preparedness Situation Report for 2023 Q3](#) was published and shared with relevant stakeholders. The report provided an overview of ETC activities, planned response, funding and challenges on a quarterly basis.

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
49.3 m	4.1 m	1.5 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.

- The WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) organised a [Global ETC Teleconference](#) on 27 October on TC Lola response. The cluster reviewed the developments on the ground and the capacity of the National ETC to coordinate the restoration of connectivity services and determined that international assistance was not needed.
- WFP participated in the communications exercise at Fiji NDMO as part of the NDAW activities. The aim of the exercise was to ensure communication and connectivity between the National Emergency Operation Centre and the responding agencies and Emergency Operation Centres. The exercise included video conferencing connection test, email and phone calls test, and radio check between NDMO and the responding agencies.

Food Security

- WFP is supporting government partners in the Pacific to monitor households' food security, dietary diversity and livelihood coping strategies. The second round of WFP's mobile vulnerability assessment and mapping (mVAM) data collection in 2023 was completed in Kiribati, Samoa,

Vanuatu, and Fiji. The (mVAM) tool is used to remotely collect data on food security and livelihoods in the region. This data analysis supports national governments to better inform planning around national food security.

- From 23 – 26 October, WFP organized a data management and visualisation workshop in Vanuatu as part of a series of engagement to strengthen digital data collection and visualization capacities of government officers in the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry and Biosecurity. The training modules included extensive hands-on practical exercises in areas of data collection, data management, and data visualization.
- Between 4 and 20 October, WFP provided three two-day trainings to over 50 Fiji Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways officials on 1) disaster preparedness and response standard operating procedures and 2) strengthen capacity of Ministry staff for effective use of data and information for decision making with a focus on disaster preparedness and response.

Social Protection

- From 18 – 19 October, WFP organised an anticipatory action training workshop in Fiji. Forty-six staff members from the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection and Ministry of Finance participated in the workshop. The training sessions covered basic knowledge on anticipatory action (AA) and social protection, coordination, beneficiary targeting, beneficiary communication and sensitization, complaints and feedback mechanism, and post distribution monitoring. The objective of the workshop was to equip participants with essential knowledge and skills required for the successful execution of the WFP AA Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance Project in Fiji.

Partnerships

- WFP continued strengthening its messaging through meetings with donors, governments, and other partners to present the Pacific Multi-Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027). In October, WFP had consultation meetings in Fiji with High Commissioners of Britain, Cook Islands, and Vanuatu, to explore common focus areas and discuss further engagements.

Donors

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