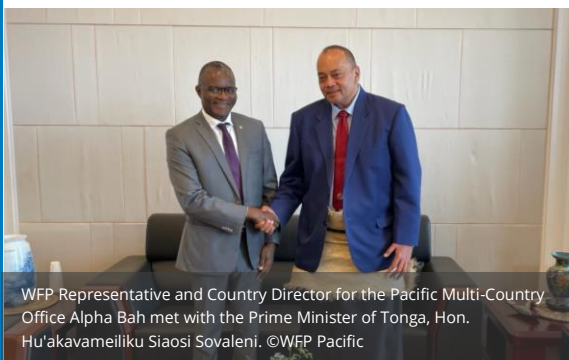




World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Pacific Country Brief March 2024



WFP Representative and Country Director for the Pacific Multi-Country Office Alpha Bah met with the Prime Minister of Tonga, Hon. Hu'akavameiliku Siaosi Sovaleni. ©WFP Pacific

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 continued 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.



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Highlights

WFP Representative and Country Director for the Pacific Multi-Country Office met with the Prime Minister of Tonga, Hon. Hu'akavameiliku Siaosi Sovaleni, and other key ministers to discuss WFP's work in the region, understand local needs, identify shared priorities, and discuss potential areas of collaboration.

WFP signed two memoranda of understanding in March, one with the Government of Fiji to support an anticipatory action pilot to enable communities to take action before disasters hit, and another with the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company to advance disaster risk financing initiatives in the Pacific.

Operational Updates

Supply Chain

- The WFP-led Pacific Logistics Cluster conducted an updated logistics capacity assessment in Samoa. The findings 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.
- WFP also completed capacity needs mapping exercises in Samoa, which assessed the capacities of the humanitarian supply chain and logistics preparedness landscape. The exercise contributed to national strategies for disaster risk management and addresses gaps and in strengthening systems for emergency preparedness and response in the longer term. Government partners and other stakeholders from participated in the exercise.

Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (ETC)

- The WFP-led Pacific Emergency Telecommunication Cluster supported the Fiji National Disaster Management Office to deliver emergency telecommunications training sessions to 18 first responders and government officials to enhance capacity strengthening on disaster preparedness. The sessions encompassed vital topics such as understanding the fundamentals of effective disaster management, improving communication skills, hands-on training on radio communications and demonstrations of various emergency telecommunications tools.

Food Security

- WFP continues to provide technical support to Fiji's Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways in data collection, visualization and systems strengthening. In March, WFP held the first mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) regional focal point workshop for representatives of the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways and the National Statistics Office, with the intent of integrating the

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
49.32 m	4.8 m	1.2 m

<p>Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Focus area: <i>Resilience Building</i></p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
<p>Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs (SDG Target 17.16)</p> <p>Strategic Outcome 2: Humanitarian and development partners in the Pacific have access to reliable services during crisis.</p> <p>Focus area: <i>Crisis Response</i></p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

Operational Updates *(continued)*

- mVAM tool within national government systems. The mVAM tool will support the Government in collecting relevant food security and nutrition data, as well as monitor critical indicators to inform policy making and measure the achievements throughout its Strategic Development Plan.
- WFP provided technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in Samoa on the data collection phase of the agricultural production survey, using the Kobo toolbox, a software used to collect, analyse, and manage data. The survey will provide a wealth of information for stakeholders in Samoa to make evidence-based decisions in the agriculture sector.
- Social Protection and Climate**
- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Fiji. WFP will support the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection in implementing an Anticipatory Action pilot programme that aims to proactively shield communities from the devastating

- impacts of tropical cyclones. This first-of-its-kind project in the Pacific will provide pre-emptive cash transfers to targeted social welfare beneficiaries to cushion the shocks of tropical cyclones on food security and livelihoods. It is also designed to prevent vulnerable groups, especially persons with disabilities, female-headed households, children, and the elderly, from being impacted further by climate shocks and vulnerabilities. Upon activation of the pre-agreed triggers, WFP will support a projected 15,000 vulnerable and at-risk households with anticipatory cash transfers in targeted areas.
- WFP has signed an MoU with the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company (PCRIC) marking a major advancement in disaster risk financing initiatives for the Pacific region. PCRIC and WFP will collaborate on initiatives in disaster risk financing that enhance Pacific Island countries' resilience against loss and damage resulting from cyclones, floods and droughts, with a particular focus on protecting vulnerable and at-risk populations.

Partnerships

- WFP's Representative and Country Director for the Pacific Multi-Country Office presented his letter of accreditation to Hon. Hu'akavameiliku Siaosi Sovaleni, the Prime Minister of Tonga, and leveraged this opportunity to meet with government leaders, and key development partners in Tonga. WFP had a series of discussions with representatives from the key ministries to present WFP's work in the region, understand the needs, explore common focus areas and discuss potential engagements.
- The United Nations' International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the WFP launched an action plan to work together in fragile contexts. The Pacific, simultaneously affected by economic shocks, and extreme weather, is part of the initiative. The two agencies seek to leverage the strengths and expertise of each other to enhance resilience in fragile environments and improve food security for those who need it most.
- A Rome-based Agencies' Principals and Technical Meeting was organized Samoa, bringing together WFP, FAO, and IFAD representatives. The representatives shared information on ongoing activities and identified priority areas for joint action. Discussions centred on strategic teaming, operational and strategic alignment, establishing collaborative mechanisms, and capitalising on each agency's strengths to prioritise achievable goals.

Donors

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