



# World Food Programme

## Pacific Multi-Country Office

### OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) are among the most hazard-prone in the world, with eight out of the 20 nations experiencing the highest average disaster losses in the world being in the Pacific. This situation is further exacerbated by the global food crisis. Analysis indicates that progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 in PICTs has been limited. This is in part driven by growing inequality, gender inequity and public services that are insufficient to address poverty, improve education or health outcomes; against the backdrop of the climate crisis, food insecurity and geopolitical pressures.

In July 2023, WFP started a Multi-Country Strategic Plan (MCSP) 2023-2027, which is aligned with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the United Nations Pacific Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-2027) and the 14 country implementation plans that represent the main strategic engagement between the United Nations development system and Pacific governments. WFP focuses on strengthening the capacities of regional and national stakeholders for emergency preparedness and response in logistics, emergency telecommunications, disaster risk management, food security and developing inclusive and accessible shock-responsive social protection systems that focus on those most at risk of being left behind.



## OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

### PROVIDE SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN SYSTEMS AND CAPACITIES

WFP's work in the Pacific focuses on strengthening local, national and regional capacities and systems to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and shocks. To achieve this, WFP leverages its global expertise, tools and partnership networks to support regional stakeholders, especially the governments, in climate and disaster risk management and response, in areas of logistics, emergency telecommunications, food security and nutrition – rather than directly distributing food or cash.

**Supply Chain and Logistics:** WFP supports governments and regional partners in the Pacific to prepare for emergencies and respond effectively by offering technical and coordination support in logistics and supply chain. WFP also supports 14 PICTs to understand their current logistics capacity, needs and identifies gaps through joint assessments. Additionally, WFP is partnering with the University of the South Pacific to implement a micro-accreditation programme for humanitarian supply chain and logistics, aiming to enhance the skills and knowledge of emergency responders.

**Emergency Telecommunications (ETC):** WFP supports Pacific governments and regional partners to strengthen emergency preparedness by providing technical assistance and coordination support in

emergency telecommunications. WFP conducts ICT capacity assessments across PICTs and produces assessment reports as a supporting tool for national and regional stakeholders. WFP then uses the assessment results to identify regional capacity and establish an ETC human resource register to facilitate the deployment of qualified responders to the Pacific in emergency situations. WFP also conducts national training and assessments to strengthen capacity in the use of ETC equipment.

**Food Security Monitoring:** works with PICT governments and partners to build national knowledge bases through the generation of evidence-based information. This informs effective policy formulation and programming and minimises the impact of shocks and disasters/ hazards on vulnerable communities. WFP works in close collaboration with national counterparts in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu to collect cross-sectional food security, nutrition and livelihoods data through its remote mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) tool. WFP intends to expand the use of this tool to the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

**Cluster Coordination:** WFP leads the regional Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Clusters of the Pacific Humanitarian Team, and co-leads the regional Food Security Cluster and the Pacific regional Cash Working Group. WFP supports regional and national stakeholders to reduce the risk of, prepare for, and respond to shocks through its cluster work.

**Anticipatory Action:** WFP is working with the Fiji Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection (MWCSP) to implement an Anticipatory Action (AA) pilot project in Fiji, funded by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), WFP and other partners. The AA project aims to strengthen the Fiji government's capacity to deliver multi-purpose cash assistance to targeted social welfare beneficiaries ahead of tropical cyclones. The AA project will deliver cash assistance to up to 15,000 beneficiaries through the MWCSP's social protection system.

**Macro insurance:** by partnering with the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company (PCRIC), WFP is exploring ways to provide market-based disaster risk financing solutions to help governments cover disaster losses, thereby enabling faster, more cost-effective and predictable responses to climate and disaster shocks.

**Social Protection:** WFP aims to help PICT governments to scale-up and enhance social protection systems, as a key pathway towards a more resilient Pacific region. WFP works with governments and partners to ensure that by 2030, people will have substantially increased access to national social protection systems that safeguard and foster their ability to meet their food security, nutrition and associated essential needs, and to manage the risks and shocks they face.

**Parametric micro insurance:** WFP, in partnership with the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), supported MWCSP to pilot a climate risk insurance project for 274 households following the Tropical Cyclone season in 2021-2022. The project provided parametric insurance to social welfare recipients living in high-disaster-risk locations in Fiji through electronic cash transfers.



## PROVIDE SERVICES UPON REQUEST

WFP provides on-demand services in response to sudden-onset shocks upon request by government partners. Examples of services that WFP has provided to Pacific national and regional partners include:

**Pacific Humanitarian Air Service:** During COVID-19, when the Pacific region was largely locked down, WFP worked with the Pacific Islands Forum to run the Pacific Humanitarian Air Service – a lifeline for PICTs, as it transported humanitarian personnel and essential medical cargo, when commercial flights had shut down. The Service has been highlighted by national governments, regional and development partners as a model for UN / government partnerships in the Pacific.

**Tonga volcanic eruption response:** In response to the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Haʻapai volcanic eruption and tsunami in Tonga in January 2022 which disrupted air travel and telecommunications in Tonga, WFP supported the Government with logistics and re-established connectivity to major swathes of the affected area. In the same year, Kiribati was affected by a severe drought and WFP supported the Government to monitor drought impacts on food security through provision of equipment and technical assistance.

**Vanuatu TC Judy and Kevin response:** In response of the devastation caused by the category 4 tropical cyclones Judy and Kevin in Vanuatu in March 2023, WFP transported critical cargo by air and sea to provide essential medical and food supplies to affected people. WFP also established emergency telecommunications connectivity services, enabling national and provincial emergency operation centres to coordinate assistance, while providing remote coordination and information management support.

**Vanuatu TC Lola response:** In response to the Tropical Cyclone Lola in October 2023, WFP deployed supply chain and logistics specialists to work with the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to provide technical assistance and provided necessary telecommunications equipment requested by the Government to support assessments. In addition, WFP provided technical assistance to the national logistics cluster, led by NDMO and WFP, to coordinate the logistics and response efforts and facilitate timely response to affected populations living in remote areas.

**Photo credit:** WFP/Kinley Wangmo



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