



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Pacific Country Brief May 2024



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.



Highlights

WFP Executive Director Cindy McCain led the delegation to the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4 Conference) in Antigua and Barbuda from 27-30 May. The ED participated in a high-level event on Bridging the Humanitarian-Development Nexus and moderated a fireside chat on Investing in Human Capital in SIDS. The events highlighted WFP's capacity strengthening approach to disaster risk management in the Caribbean and the Pacific, enhancing the understanding of its ability to provide technical assistance and support climate crisis preparedness. The Executive Director also had the opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister of Tonga and incoming Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, H. E. Siaosi Sovaleni, to discuss unique challenges and opportunities faced by Tonga and other SIDS in the Pacific.

Operational Updates

Supply Chain

- Following the logistics capacity assessment conducted in Tonga in October 2023, the WFP-led Pacific Logistics Cluster published the [Tonga logistics capacity assessment report](#). 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 conducted a logistics capacity assessment in Solomon Islands, and the report will be published in August.
- WFP also completed capacity needs mapping exercises in Solomon Islands, which assessed the capacities of the humanitarian supply chain and logistics preparedness landscape. The exercise addresses gaps in strengthening systems for emergency preparedness and response in the longer term. Government partners and other stakeholders participated in the exercise.

Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (ETC)

- To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of national and regional ICT emergency response teams, WFP adopted a system strengthening approach starting with an analysis to identify training needs, requirements, and competency gaps. WFP rolled out a training needs assessment survey to key stakeholders across 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories, including national disaster management offices. The survey aims to gather information that will identify existing competencies and gaps in performance, and lay a foundation for the delivery of 'fit for purpose' ICT and essential skills training solutions.

Contact info: wfp.pacificmco@wfp.org

Country Director: Alpha Bah

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/pacific

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
53.95 m	7.07 m	2.7 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.

Food Security

- At the 13th Meeting of the Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB), WFP presented its mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping methodology, highlighting its benefits for the Pacific region. This contributes to PSMB's discussions on fit-for-purpose methods and standards for data collection, analysis, and dissemination in the Pacific. PSMB strongly encourages national statistics organisations and other agencies to adopt these recommended methods and standards to ensure the consistency of official statistics.

Climate and Disaster Risk Financing and Social Protection

- WFP is developing a project entitled "Linking climate and disaster risk financing and insurance with people-centred approaches in Asia Pacific" to explore innovative models and generate critical evidence to link climate and disaster risk financing and insurance mechanisms with social protection systems. This initiative aims to enhance governments' disaster preparedness and response capabilities through a people-centred approach, which seeks to minimise costs and optimise the timing of financial assistance following disasters, safeguarding the well-being of affected populations.

- WFP organized a two-day training workshop on digitizing the Fiji Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection's (MWCSP) surveys, including the post-distribution monitoring survey for the MWCSP-WFP joint Anticipatory Action Pilot Project in Fiji. MWCSP also received tablets donated by WFP in support of their data collection, monitoring and evaluation. By providing advanced tools and training, WFP aims to improve the Ministry's disaster preparedness and response capabilities, ensuring better support for vulnerable populations in times of crisis.

Partnerships

- WFP Executive Director Cindy McCain led the delegation to the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4 Conference) held in Antigua and Barbuda between 27-30 May. The ED participated in a high-level side event co-convened by the Government of Barbados and WFP on "Bridging the Humanitarian-Development Nexus through comprehensive disaster management in SIDS for Climate Action". The ED also moderated a fireside chat portion of the Interactive Dialogue "Investing in Human Capital: Addressing Health Crises in Small Island Developing States and Building the potential of Youth".
- The engagement at the SIDS4 Conference provided an opportunity to highlight WFP's systems and multi-country capacity strengthening approach to disaster risk management in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. By showcasing its comprehensive programme offering, WFP enhanced the understanding of its ability to provide technical assistance and climate crisis preparedness at leadership and technical levels. The SIDS4 Conference provided a critical platform for enhanced engagement and recognition by leaders and technical level experts of WFP's mission alignment and contribution to the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS).
- On the margins of the SIDS4 Conference, the ED accompanied by the WFP Country Director in the Pacific, held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister (PM) of the Kingdom of Tonga and incoming Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum, H. E. Siaosi Sovaleni. The meeting focused on the unique challenges and opportunities faced by Tonga and other SIDS in the Pacific region, and WFP's role in the region in leveraging long-term capacity strengthening support, helping SIDS anticipate, prepare for, and respond to climate shocks. The ED and PM reiterated their commitment to close collaboration, with an aim of enhancing understanding and approaches to support disaster risk management and sustainable development in Tonga and the Pacific region.

Donors

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