



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Pacific Country Brief June 2024

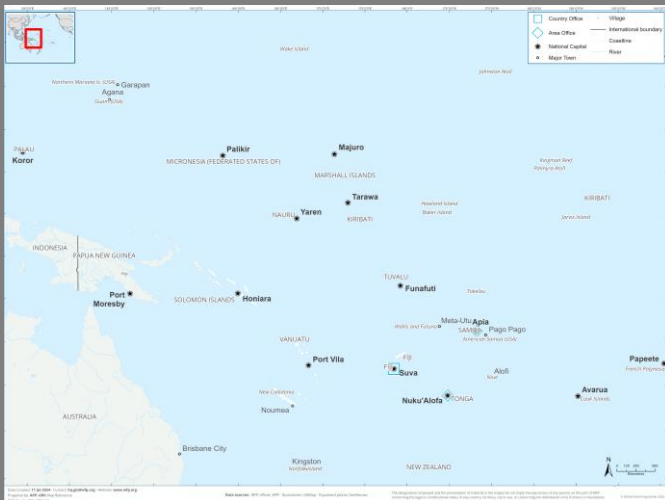


WFP led ETC donated satellite telecommunications to the Samoa Disaster Management Office to enable critical voice connection between Emergency Operations Centres in the aftermath of disasters. Photo: WFP Pacific ©WFP Pacific Multi-Country Office

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. PICTs are still reeling from the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, a situation 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.

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 government partners in 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. In addition, WFP provides mandated and on-demand services in response to sudden-onset shocks.



*WFP operates in 14 PICTs, namely: Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Highlights

- The WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster conducted an ICT Capacity Assessment for Samoa in coordination with relevant government counterparts
- With support from the SDG Fund, FAO and WFP have begun discussions for the rollout of a project to support Samoa's National Food System Transformation Agenda, aiming to address critical food system elements and promoting local traditional foods through a holistic food systems approach.
- WFP published the [2023 Fiji Market and Price Monitoring Bulletin](#) – a snapshot of the trends in inflation, exchange rates, remittances as well as staple food prices in Fiji in 2023.

Operational Updates

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

- From 4 to 14 June, the WFP-led Pacific ETC conducted the ICT Capacity Assessment for Samoa, co-led by the Disaster Management Office (DMO) and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. The assessment included an evaluation of policies, strategies, and capacities, providing an overview of the ICT landscape and insights into how communications technologies are leveraged in response to sudden-onset shocks, as well as to mitigate the impact of such shocks.
- The ETC supported the Samoa DMO with two satellite phones to be utilized by the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) in Apia and future EOC in Savai'i. This will ensure reliable communication between the two operational hubs during and in the aftermath of emergencies. The DMO acknowledged how these devices would significantly strengthen their ability to coordinate relief efforts swiftly and effectively during emergencies.
- The ETC is analyzing the organizational technical training needs across the 14 PICTs where it operates. The analysis aims to identify existing competencies, gaps in performance, and lay a foundation for the delivery of 'fit for purpose' ICT and essential skills training solutions. Based on the responses, reports have been compiled and disseminated to relevant authorities and stakeholders in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- From 3 to 7 June, the ETC provided technical assistance to the Fiji National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) as part of a joint assessment of the Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) across Viti Levu to understand their capabilities and preparedness. Assessments were completed for 22 EOCs and focused on a range of components, including infrastructure, computing system, audio-visual, information management, communications, logistics and human resources.

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
53.95 m	7.26 m	2.78 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.

Supply Chain

- On 26 June, the WFP-led Pacific Logistics Cluster convened members to its third coordination meeting in 2024. The meeting served as a platform for partners such as UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to socialize its Automated System for Relief Consignments (ASYREC) to simplify the customs process during disasters by fast-tracking the clearance of relief items. Additionally, the international NGO, Field Ready, presented on its efforts to scale up local manufacturing of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and food security products and facilitating rapid response repairs and fixes through mobile makerspaces.

Food Security

- WFP supported government partners and other stakeholders to enhance the availability of data and evidence-based analysis of the food security, nutrition and livelihood situation to inform decision making, policy and programme development. WFP developed and published with relevant government partners and stakeholders the [2023 Fiji Market and Price Monitoring Bulletin](#). The Bulletin provides a snapshot of the trends in inflation, exchange

rates, remittances as well as staple food prices in Fiji in 2023. The WFP market and price monitoring bulletins aim to provide insights for decision makers on drivers that influence availability and people's access to food and other basic needs.

- With the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WFP has started discussions on a project funded by the SDG Fund to support the Samoa National Food System Transformation Agenda. Through collective action and drawing on the respective comparative advantages, this initiative aims to address the critical elements of the food system transformation, including a comprehensive analysis of national food trade and related policies, developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for the pathway, promote the availability and consumption of local traditional foods through a holistic food systems approach.
- WFP will conduct a Cost of Healthy Diet (CoHD) analysis, to promote sustainable and gender-sensitive local healthy food consumption and address availability and accessibility to healthy food by Samoans. The CoHD analysis will also provide the evidence base for policy and regulatory measures and contribute to nutrition education programmes, promoting healthy consumption patterns.

Social Protection and Disaster Risk Financing

- On 26 June, WFP coordinated and convened the first Pacific Regional Cash Working Group (PRCWG) meeting, co-led with FAO. The objective of the meeting was to improve the quality and coordination, increase the scale and broaden the scope of and use of cash voucher assistance through shared lessons learnt across the region. The meeting was attended by 19 PRCWG members of various agencies across Pacific countries and territories.
- WFP is supporting Pacific countries in ensuring access to macro-insurance mechanisms to mitigate the financial impacts of natural hazards. Targeted research on disaster risk financing (DRF) and social protection will provide technical insights to Pacific governments to strengthen their disaster risk management strategies, linking DRF instruments to social protection schemes. These efforts are aimed at filling existing research gaps and enhancing the effectiveness of DRF and adaptive social protection strategies with an initial focus on Fiji and Tonga.

Donors

Republic of Fiji, Federal Republic of Germany, United States of America, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and United Nations.