



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Pacific Country Brief September 2024



WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster's workshop, Sept 2024. Photo: ©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. 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 Country Director for the Pacific multi-country office presented credentials to the Hon. Gustav Aitaro, State Minister of the Republic of Palau, and met with other key stakeholders to share WFP's work in the region, understand their needs, and explore potential areas for collaboration.
- Building on the 2023 logistics capacity assessment (LCA) conducted by WFP in Vanuatu, which utilised an on-the-job learning approach with the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), the NDMO independently carried out provincial logistics assessments for Sanma and Tafea provinces.
- The WFP-led Pacific Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) held the "Tech Together" workshop in Fiji (23 – 25 September), bringing together participants from Pacific governments, NDMOs, and the private sector. The workshop addressed telecommunications preparedness, with insights shaping a regional cluster approach to better equip Pacific countries for climate-related shocks and geohazards.

Operational Updates

Supply chain

- In 2023, WFP conducted an LCA in Vanuatu, utilising an on-the-job learning approach to build local capacity. Staff from the Vanuatu NDMO worked alongside WFP staff, gaining hands-on experience in logistics assessment processes. Building on this collaboration, in September 2024, the Vanuatu NDMO successfully conducted provincial logistics capacity assessments for Sanma and Tafea provinces. This exemplifies WFP's commitment to strengthening local systems, promoting local ownership and ensuring sustainability, empowering national institutions to effectively manage logistics operations independently in the long term.
- In line with the recommendations from the Samoa capacity needs mapping to enhance their storage capacity, the Samoa NDMO requested support from WFP. WFP has provided four mobile storage units, a forklift, and a generator from its logistics hub in Kuala Lumpur to Samoa. This is part of the broader preparedness measures ahead of the upcoming cyclone season, aimed at strengthening Samoa's disaster response capabilities and ensuring efficient handling and storage of critical relief supplies.
- The WFP-led Pacific Logistics Cluster initiated a readiness survey among cluster members in preparation for the 2024-2025 cyclone season. The survey seeks to collect detailed information on the preparedness and response activities of each organisation.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
53.9 m	7.6 m	4.5 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.
- This includes the repositioning of essential stocks, tools, and resources that can be mobilized in case of a disaster. By consolidating this information, the cluster aims to identify gaps, enhance coordination, and ensure a more efficient response to potential emergencies during the upcoming cyclone season.

Emergency Telecommunications

- From 23 to 25 September, the ETC hosted its first large-scale "Tech Together" workshop in Fiji. The event brought together 28 participants from 14 Pacific governments, NDMOs, regulators, and private sector representatives. Over the three-day workshop, participants explored shared challenges, risks, and opportunities in telecommunications preparedness across Pacific Island Countries and Territories. The insights gathered will shape the development of a regionally adapted emergency telecommunications cluster, better equipping governments to prepare for and respond to climate-related shocks and geohazards.

Research, assessment and monitoring

- As the Pacific approaches cyclone season, WFP plans to implement its mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping (mVAM) data collection, providing governments and partners with crucial food security and livelihoods data to guide planning and interventions. In preparation for mVAM data collection, WFP conducted training sessions for enumerators from its implementing partner, Digicel Ltd., in Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Kiribati, and Tonga. These workshops featured knowledge-sharing and mock calls to enhance remote data collection skills. The upcoming round of data collection is anticipated in October and November 2024.

Pacific regional Food Security Cluster

- The rPFSC is collaborating with national clusters in Vanuatu, Tonga, Samoa, and Fiji to enhance pre-cyclone season preparedness. In response to requests from Governments, the rPFSC, through WFP, has planned emergency preparedness and response workshops for the 2024-2025 cyclone season. These workshops will focus on needs assessments, updating questionnaires, refining standard operating procedures, and enhancing coordination mechanisms to ensure effective disaster response.

Partnerships

- WFP's Country Director presented credentials to the Hon. Gustav Aitaro, State Minister of the Republic of Palau, and leveraged the opportunity to meet with Mr. Waymine Towai, Executive Director of National Emergency Management Office, H.E. Ms. Richelle Turner, Australian Ambassador to Palau and Mr. Shankar Rao, Deputy Chief of Mission of US Embassy. These meetings provided an opportunity to share WFP's work in the region, understand local needs, explore areas of mutual interest, and discuss potential collaboration.
- The third Rome-based Agencies Principals meeting convened on 25 September 2024 in Suva. Country representatives and technical team leads from WFP, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) engaged in discussions regarding ongoing collaboration and focused on resource allocation in select Pacific countries, including the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, and Samoa, in key thematic areas including food security analysis, cluster coordination, nutrition, climate and disaster resilience, and resilient food systems.

Donors

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