



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Pacific Country Brief October 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, in partnership with network provider Digicel, has initiated mVAM data collection in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu. WFP's mVAM work provides critical information on food security, nutrition and livelihoods of vulnerable groups in support of their disaster preparedness and response.
- The Government of Samoa endorsed the ICA conducted by the WFP-led Pacific ETC. The ICA evaluated the country's disaster readiness in areas such as infrastructure, coordination and policy. In the coming months, WFP will provide technical assistance to support the implementation of the ICA's recommendations.
- WFP participated in a workshop on the PHWP. The workshop, which was a critical opportunity to discuss about warehouse infrastructure design, work progress, partnership engagement and programme visibility.

Operational Updates

Supply chain

- In its commitment to support the Samoa Disaster Management Office in preparation for the upcoming cyclone season, WFP prepositioned four mobile storage units, one generator, one forklift and two satellite phones to ensure that essential equipment is readily available for disaster response, enabling quicker deployment and timely assistance to affected communities.
- WFP participated in the PHWP Mid-Year Programme Governance Committee Meeting and Infrastructure Requirements Workshop. The workshop brought together representatives from National Disaster Management Offices across participating countries, the Pacific Community (SPC), and contributing donors. The workshop focused on PHWP infrastructure design, the Programme Governance Committee's work progress and plan, partnership engagement and programme visibility. The PHWP aims to strengthen humanitarian warehousing capacities across 14 Pacific Island Countries and Timor-Leste, and enhance prepositioning and storage of emergency relief supplies to enable timely distribution before and immediately after disasters.
- WFP published a factsheet entitled "[Vanuatu: Strengthening emergency preparedness and response through optimised supply chains,](#)" showcasing its collaboration with Pacific governments and partners to enhance systems and capacities to mitigate, prepare for, and

Contact info: Pacific.Contact@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	7.66 m	5.20 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.

respond to various shocks, through its supply chain country capacity strengthening initiative.

Emergency Telecommunications

- Ahead of the Pacific's cyclone season, the WFP-led ETC is working with national disaster management authorities across the region to map the availability and operational status of emergency telecommunications equipment. The purpose of this exercise is to identify potential gaps in the event of communications disruptions and anticipate areas where enhanced material capacity support may be required.
- Following the ICA conducted in June 2024, the ETC presented recommendations to the Samoa Disaster Management Office and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. The Government of Samoa endorsed the ICA, which provides an in-depth evaluation of Samoa's disaster readiness in key areas of focus ranging from infrastructure to coordination and policy. Over the coming months, WFP will offer guidance to assist in implementing the report's recommendations.

Social Protection

- On October 24, WFP conducted a refresher training on anticipatory action post-distribution monitoring (PDM) for 14 participants from the Fiji Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Protection. This training enhanced the skills of staff involved in baseline surveys and PDM by equipping them with updated methodologies, tools, and best practices. WFP focused on strengthening their capacity to conduct effective baseline surveys and PDMs, as well as enhancing their understanding of reporting on protection and accountability to affected populations and the results of the complaints and feedback mechanism.

Research, assessment and monitoring

- WFP, in partnership with Digicel, commenced its mVAM data collection in Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. This will provide governments and partners with essential information on households' food security, dietary diversity, livelihood coping strategies and nutrition intake, enabling governments and other humanitarian partners to make informed decisions. This initiative comes ahead of the approaching cyclone season.
- WFP conducted a five-day Tableau training on data visualisation for 12 staff members from the Vanuatu Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries, and Biosecurity and the Vanuatu Statistics Office. The training aimed to provide technical support in data analysis and visualisation, sharing some of the best practices and methodologies used by WFP. This initiative is especially timely as both agencies prepare to analyse data from Vanuatu's 2022-2023 Agriculture Census to gain insights into the agricultural sector's current status, trends and challenges.

Partnerships

- WFP supported Fiji's Ministry of Agriculture in commemorating World Food Day on 16 October. During the event, Minister for Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy emphasised the importance of this day in recognising the efforts of organisations dedicated to zero hunger. This year's theme, "Right to Foods for a Better Life and a Better Future - Leave No One Behind" highlighted the need for inclusive action to ensure food security for all. The priorities set to support this theme focused on fostering better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life.

Donors

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