



World Food Programme

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CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Pacific Country Brief November 2024 – January 2025



WFP supports the Vanuatu Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) in distributing relief food items © WFP Pacific

## 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

- In response to the 7.3 magnitude earthquake that struck Vanuatu, WFP deployed a multi-sectoral team to support the Government of Vanuatu's response efforts. This included activating the Pacific Humanitarian Air Service to facilitate the transport of humanitarian personnel and cargo, deploying five staff, and established emergency telecommunications services, satellite connectivity, and mobile storage units.
- WFP completed a round of remote data collection in Vanuatu using its mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) tool.
- WFP signed four tripartite agreements with the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company and the Governments of Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, and Samoa, allocating an additional USD 1 million to top up macro insurance premiums for cyclone coverage.

## Operational Updates

### Vanuatu Earthquake Response

- On 17 December, a 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck the main island of Vanuatu, followed by several aftershocks in the same region. In response, WFP deployed a multi-sectoral team to support the Government of Vanuatu, in areas of logistics, emergency telecommunications, food security, and emergency coordination. A team of five staff worked closely with key government ministries and clusters to ensure effective relief efforts.
- From 17 to 21 December, the Port Vila airport was non-operational. WFP, with the approval of the Government of Vanuatu, activated the Pacific Humanitarian Air Service (PHAS), which arrived in Port Vila on 21 December. The PHAS provided vital air services to transport humanitarian personnel from the United Nations, the humanitarian community and development partners together with critical relief supplies to Port Vila, supporting the Government and humanitarian community in restoring services and ensuring a rapid response to the earthquake.
- At the request of the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), WFP deployed and established mobile storage units, offering secure and temporary storage solutions for humanitarian relief items and a temporary office for the NDMO in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake. WFP deployed a logistics expert stationed with the NDMO to support them in leading overall response coordination and information management, including facilitating requests for assistance, clearing and handing over relief items.
- The WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster deployed emergency telecommunications services and satellite connectivity equipment to support key government agencies and humanitarian actors, providing critical connectivity to national responders.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>53.95 m</b>	<b>9.13 m</b>	<b>4.29 m</b>

**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.

## Vanuatu Earthquake Response (continued)

- WFP supported the Vanuatu Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) in distributing relief food items (10-day dry food rations) to 2,000 displaced people and their host families, including persons with disabilities and the elderly. WFP also deployed an emergency coordinator to ensure effective coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance, supporting the Government of Vanuatu's response efforts

## Supply Chain

- Upon the request of the Government of Samoa, WFP prepositioned four mobile storage units, one generator, one forklift, and two satellite phones ahead of the cyclone season to strengthen the country's disaster preparedness. These assets will provide vital support to the Disaster Management Office, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency response operations.

## Emergency Telecommunications

- The WFP-led Pacific Emergency Telecommunications Cluster released its [Evaluation Report](#) for the Tech Together workshop held in September. The Evaluation Report highlights key themes for improving emergency

telecommunications coordination, include training, improved collaboration between national structures and service providers, and investment in resilient infrastructure.

## Food Security

- In November, WFP completed a round of remote data collection survey in Vanuatu, using its mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) tool. The mVAM results, which provided an overview of food consumption, dietary diversity, and other important information on food security and nutrition conditions. The [Vanuatu mVAM bulletin](#) served as a baseline for post-disaster food security and nutrition assessments.
- The Samoa Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and WFP jointly held a workshop to mark the launch of a Cost of the Diet analysis in Samoa. The initiative aims to identify nutrient gaps and enhance decision-making to improve access to healthy, nutritious diets, with a focus on the most vulnerable. The analysis is part of Samoa's broader efforts to transform its national food systems and improve nutritional well-being.

## Social Protection

- WFP signed four tripartite agreements with the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company (PCRIC) and the Governments of Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu allocating an additional USD 1 million to top up macro insurance premiums for cyclone coverage. This top-up has expanded insurance coverage by USD 8.3 million for climate-vulnerable countries in the Pacific, ensuring increased payouts in the event of severe cyclones. This initiative will support up to 68,000 people in the event of a trigger. Additionally, WFP has collaborated with national governments to develop disbursement plans, facilitating the timely and effective use of funds for early disaster response.

## Anticipatory Action

- The Government of Fiji and WFP amended the Memorandum of Agreement for the Anticipatory Action pilot project to include a new complaints and feedback mechanism system within the Ministry of Women Children and Social Protection to improve accountability to affected population with an efficient two-way communication channel.

## Partnerships

- As part of the Small Island Developing States Solutions Forum organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, WFP co-hosted three key nutrition-focused events, including two breakout sessions on Cost of Diet Analysis and mVAM respectively, and a "Farm to Table" dinner promoting local, nutritious and seasonal ingredients.

## Donors

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