



World Food Programme

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WFP Pacific Country Brief February–March 2025



The Pacific Rome Based Agencies were awarded the 2024 RBA Award of Excellence ©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.



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Highlights

- In March, with support from the Government of Australia, WFP commenced implementation of activities under the Pacific Humanitarian Warehousing Programme to strengthen local capacities in humanitarian logistics and warehousing.
- The Pacific Rome Based Agencies (RBAs) were awarded the 2024 RBA Award of Excellence, recognizing their impactful collaboration, which spans 14 Pacific small island developing states focusing food security, nutrition, disaster risk financing, and food systems resilience. Through joint programmes and coordinated actions, the partnership supports national priorities and advances SDG 2.
- In February, the WFP-led Pacific ETC launched the Pacific Waves eLearning Platform to strengthen emergency telecommunications preparedness. The platform offers online training resources for government and humanitarian responders across the region.
- WFP's Representative and Country Director for the Pacific Multi-Country Office Alpha Bah met with Mr. Dave Vosen, Assistant Secretary of the Humanitarian Preparedness and Response Branch, from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to discuss WFP's initiatives in the Pacific and explore opportunities to deepen collaboration.

Operational Updates

Supply Chain

- In March, with the generous support from the Government of Australia, WFP commenced support for 'Building Local Pacific Capacities in Humanitarian Logistics and Warehouse Systems under the Pacific Humanitarian Warehousing Programme'. Through this initiative, WFP works with regional and national disaster management authorities to enhance humanitarian warehousing systems and capabilities, improve storage infrastructure, and strengthen logistics coordination to ensure timely and effective emergency response across the Pacific.

Emergency Telecommunications

- In February, the WFP-led Pacific Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) launched the Pacific Waves eLearning Platform for government and humanitarian responders from across the region. The platform comprises a library of online training resources geared towards supporting first responders enhance their skills in emergency telecommunications preparedness on topics such as radio communications, satellite communications and disaster coordination.

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
53.95 m	9.46 m	3.63 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.

Operational Updates *(continuation)*

Food Security

- In February, WFP conducted a four-day Kobo Toolbox training for technical staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries, and Biosecurity in **Vanuatu**. The training aimed to strengthen national capacity in digital data collection, analysis, and reporting. As part of the initiative, WFP provided tablets to support field-level data collection. These tools and skills will enable the Ministry to conduct a food security and livelihoods survey focused on response and recovery needs following the 17 December 2024 earthquake, supporting data-driven decision-making and more effective post-disaster interventions.
- On 26 February, the second meeting of the Regional Pacific Food Security Cluster was convened, bringing together food security partners and government stakeholders from **Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu**, and cluster lead agencies. The meeting provided a platform to share cyclone season updates, highlight ongoing projects, and discuss challenges and opportunities to strengthen coordination and enhance the efficiency of disaster response.

- The Regional Pacific Food Security Cluster also initiated collaboration with **Fiji's** Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways and the national Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster to integrate outcomes from the recent emergency preparedness workshop into existing standard operating procedures. This process will be further developed to define specific areas of support and collaborative actions in the months ahead.

Partnerships

- WFP's Representative and Country Director for the Pacific Multi-Country Alpha Bah Office met with Mr. Dave Vosen, Assistant Secretary of the Humanitarian Preparedness and Response Branch, from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to discuss WFP's initiatives in the Pacific and explore opportunities to deepen collaboration. WFP also held a bilateral meeting with the **Federated States of Micronesia** delegation, including Ms. Yvonne Johnny, Special Assistant to the President, to exchange information and identify areas of synergy.
- In March, WFP met with the Ambassador of France to **Samoa**. The meeting focused on WFP's activities in Samoa and the broader Pacific, and explored alignment with France's development priorities in the region. France opened its embassy in Samoa last February.
- The Pacific Rome-based Agency (RBA) teams were honoured with the 2024 RBA Award of Excellence. The Pacific RBAs Partnership. The tripartite partnership, launched in August 2023, strengthens collaboration across 14 Pacific Small Island Developing States through five thematic areas: food security analysis; nutrition and non-communicable diseases; national and regional food security coordination; climate and disaster resilience through risk financing and resilient systems; and resilient food systems transformation. Key joint initiatives include the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund Programme in **Samoa**, the Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress Toward Rural Women's Economic Empowerment, regional awareness-raising events on food systems and climate change, nutrition-focused activities such as Cost of Diet Analysis and Farm to Table, and co-authored publications on COVID-19 recovery and food security. These efforts align with the Pacific United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 2 through coordinated, country-driven actions.

Donors

The Government of Australia, the Government of France, Global Shield Financing Facility, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, other United Nations funds and agencies