



Showcasing WFP's first Regional Strategy for the Pacific

Side event on the margins of the annual session of the Executive Board

Thursday, 13 June 2019, 13:45–14:45

Auditorium, WFP headquarters

Lunch will be served in the Peace Garden from 13:15–13:45

You are kindly invited to a World Food Programme (WFP)-convened side event during the annual session of the Executive Board. The event will include welcoming remarks by the WFP Executive Director, Mr David Beasley, and will be chaired by the WFP Deputy Executive Director, Mr Amir Abdulla supported by the Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, Mr David Kaatrud. Pacific Island representatives including Hon. Mahendra Reddy, Minister of Agriculture of Fiji, H.E. Doreen de Brum, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations Office in Geneva, H.E. Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Independent State of Samoa, and Dr William Hamblin, Director of the National Disaster Centre, Papua New Guinea, will also be participating in the event.

Context

The Pacific region is made up of a rich and diverse set of countries, each with its own unique set of challenges, requiring a flexible multi-country programme able to be adapted to the specific needs of individual countries. The region experiences an average of three major disasters per year, ranging from floods, droughts and cyclones to earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. In the medium to long-term, climate-related disasters are expected to increase in number and scale, especially in relation to El Niño and La Niña cycles.

Following Tropical Cyclone Pam, which devastated Vanuatu in 2015, WFP and its partners agreed to strengthen the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) in the Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) through the introduction of a cluster approach and, with the encouragement of the governments of Fiji, Australia and New Zealand, WFP opened an office in Suva, Fiji. In 2016, Tropical Cyclone Winston – the largest cyclone ever to make landfall in the southern hemisphere – hit Fiji. In the same year, because of the increasing impact of an El Niño induced drought, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the National Disaster Centre (NDC) in Papua New Guinea requested WFP's assistance.

Over the years, WFP has been increasingly requested to support Pacific States as they respond to natural disasters. After establishing an initial presence in the region, WFP is now formalizing its engagement in the region through a three-year interim multi-country strategic plan (iMCSP). The iMCSP aims to improve the capacity of the PICTs to reduce the risk of, prepare for and respond to disasters.

Objectives

The side event aims to increase awareness among the Board Members of the unique challenges faced by the Pacific region and provide an overview of how WFP's activities and plans (iMCSP) can best support Pacific Island states in mitigating and overcoming these challenges.

Agenda

13:15	Lunch in the Peace Garden
13:45	Welcome by the Executive Director
13:50	Introduction by the WFP Deputy Executive Director
13:55	Video
14:00	Presentation by the Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
14:05	Presentation by the Ambassador of the Independent State of Samoa
14:10	Presentation by the Director of the National Disaster Centre, Papua New Guinea
14:15	Presentation by the Minister of Agriculture of Fiji
14:20	Q&A session facilitated by the WFP Deputy Executive Director
14:45	Wrap up and closure by the WFP Deputy Executive Director

List of speakers

1. Mr David Beasley, WFP Executive Director
2. Mr Amir Abdulla, WFP Deputy Executive Director
3. H.E. Doreen de Brum, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
4. H.E. Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Independent State of Samoa
5. Dr William Hamblin, Director of the National Disaster Centre, Papua New Guinea
6. Hon. Mahendra Reddy, Minister of Agriculture of Fiji