



## QUESTIONNAIRE

### **Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the MSI, BPOA for the Sustainable Development of SIDS**

#### **Inputs from the World Food Programme**

#### **PART A**

#### **VULNERABILITY REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE BUILDING IN SIDS**

#### **1. Enhanced Support for a resilient Post COVID 19 Recovery in SIDS and Tailored Development Cooperation for SIDS**

Through its interim Multi-Country Strategic Plan (iMCSP) 2019-2023, WFP prioritized close collaboration with national governments and communities across **15 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs)**<sup>1</sup> as well as regional clusters in their efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 2 (Zero Hunger) and 17 (Global Partnerships). WFP aimed to bolster emergency preparedness and response capacities and coordination mechanisms and enhance the collection and analysis of food security and nutrition data to inform the design of social protection interventions.

In 2022, WFP Pacific demonstrated its agility by providing support for national COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts, as well as responding to the volcanic eruption in Tonga and the drought in Kiribati. To streamline information sharing on the humanitarian situation, assess needs and deploy the appropriate responses, WFP facilitated coordination among partners and provided technical assistance through regional logistics, emergency telecommunications, food security clusters and the cash working group. Overall, counterparts were satisfied with WFP's leadership and services provided, as reflected in annual user surveys.

To augment logistics response and management capacities, WFP, through its leadership in the Pacific Logistics Cluster, facilitated two strategic training sessions on Humanitarian Logistics Management and Medical Logistics in Pandemics. To improve information sharing and coordination among partners, WFP facilitated the transition to the Stock of Humanitarian Organisations Logistics Mapping (STOCKHOLM) platform, providing a visual representation of pre-positioned humanitarian contingency stock in the Pacific.

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<sup>1</sup> The Pacific Island Countries and Territories covered by WFP under its iMCSP include the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Furthermore, Logistics Capacity Assessments were conducted in Fiji, Tuvalu and the Federate State of Micronesia to map out the gaps and challenges in national logistics response infrastructure and services.

WFP, through the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), engaged with regional and national partners on telecommunications preparedness projects. The installation of an emergency communications system in Nauru, alongside training provided to government staff, was pivotal to supporting the national COVID-19 response. In addition, the ETC delivered training on disaster-emergency preparedness and response (D-EPR) to strengthen the capacity of telecommunications professionals in the Pacific to prepare for and respond to connectivity needs during crises.

WFP continued to ramp up its efforts on enhancing the system architecture and improving the knowledge base through evidence generation to inform effective government policy formulation and programming. WFP collaborated closely with national counterparts in five countries (i.e., Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu) to collect cross-sectional data through its mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping (mVAM) tool. As the global food crisis impacted economies in the region and further exacerbated the vulnerabilities of households at risk of food insecurity, WFP took active steps to prepare for an expansion of its remote data collection in the region, starting with the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. Furthermore, WFP, in partnership with the University of the South Pacific, introduced the use of the Market Functionality Index (MFI) and the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) in Fiji to better understand households' ability to meet their essential needs.

WFP strengthened social protection systems in the Pacific to help households meet their essential needs and manage risks and shocks. As co-chair of the Pacific Regional Cash Working Group, WFP contributed to the development of an interactive platform that tracks all ongoing cash and voucher assistance activities to improve the coordination and effectiveness of cash-based interventions in the region. WFP also conducted a social protection mapping exercise in Kiribati, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu to identify the main actors, opportunities and key challenges, as well as the potential areas of support to be provided to national actors in expanding and strengthening the shock-responsiveness of the existing social protection systems.

In terms of common services provision, WFP continued to leverage its expertise in humanitarian logistics and supply chain management. The WFP-operated transit warehouse in Nadi, Fiji, supported the storage and prepositioning of relief items. The Pacific Humanitarian Air Service provided critical support to its partners, including governments and other United Nations agencies, to enable the movement of humanitarian personnel and the transport of essential cargo.

**Regarding the Caribbean region**, in 2022, WFP transited from the Interim Multi-Country Strategic Plan 2020-2022 (iMCSP), which finished in February 2022, to the new [Multi-Country Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#) (MCSP), which started in March 2022. In accordance with the iMCSP, WFP assisted crisis-affected and food-insecure populations in the Caribbean and strengthened the governments' capacity and logistics to face emergencies, shocks and climate change, including through the provision of common services and platforms.

From January to February, WFP's Caribbean Multi-Country Office, responded to socioeconomic and climate shocks and adopted a regional approach to managing common challenges and disasters. In this context, WFP contributed to improving food security and strengthening climate resilience as well as improving policy design and programmes at the national level.

In the first two months of 2022, WFP Caribbean delivered cash-based assistance to people affected by the enduring socioeconomic impact of the pandemic and the volcano eruption in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 2021. In parallel, WFP strengthened institutional capacities to respond to such shocks. As a result, 59,773 people at risk of food insecurity received assistance through cash-based transfers, value vouchers and school meals worth USD 2.2 million through government systems as part of national emergency responses in Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the British Virgin Islands.

While working closely with governments during the provision of immediate assistance, WFP also provided technical assistance to strengthen social protection and disaster management systems through digitization processes, investing in assets and further developing human resource capacities. By integrating capacity strengthening support into emergency response efforts, WFP supported regional and national institutions in enhancing their ability to meet the immediate essential needs of people at risk of food insecurity in times of crisis while reducing the gendered impact of shocks and augmenting people's ability to recover. In 2022, WFP collaborated with governments to implement unique and innovative pilots to improve current and future response efforts. WFP, in collaboration with social protection ministries, strengthened systems used to register and verify shock-affected people while improving vulnerability analysis, monitoring and delivery mechanisms. Overall, 918,000 people benefitted from capacity strengthening.

WFP, as a leader in logistics coordination in the region, provided a combination of technical assistance and direct operational support in the case of large-scale emergencies to national and regional actors such as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), national disaster management authorities, humanitarian actors and other partners. In 2022, WFP worked with its main partner, CDEMA, to shape the region's supply chain management and emergency logistics coordination approach, specifically establishing the Regional Logistics Hub for the Caribbean.

The conclusion of cash assistance and technical assistance programmes under the IMCSP allowed for performance evaluation, documentation of key lessons learned and articulation of governments' demand for specific support. The governments highlighted the relevance and added value of WFP's work in the region, which contributed to enhancing the sustainability of preparedness actions and strengthening national and regional capacities to respond to disasters without external assistance.

Finally, WFP deepened relationships with national governments and explored emerging opportunities to bridge the humanitarian-development-peace divide and develop innovative solutions to Caribbean challenges through partnerships with United Nations agencies, regional institutions and international financial institutions

## **PART B**

### **IDENTIFYING POLICY PRIORITIES IN SIDS FOR THE NEW AGENDA**

Considering their specific vulnerabilities, key priorities to further advance the SIDS development agenda include the following:

1. Focus on increasing the Pacific Governments' capacity to understand the differentiated impacts of climate change and other shocks on the food security and nutrition of those most at risk of being left behind through evidence and action.
2. Focus on enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of preparedness actions and strengthening regional and national capacities to assist crisis-affected and food-insecure populations, including through the provision of common services and platforms. Limited crisis response would augment specific government and partner gaps, only as required, in logistics, emergency telecommunications and on-demand services.
3. Link Disaster risk reduction activities with adequate and sustainable funding mechanisms
4. Mainstream gender and disability inclusion as key cross-cutting elements.