

Highlights

- A draft data capture template for Provincial Logistics Capacity Assessments (PLCAs) was adopted by the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO).
- The World Food Programme's (WFP) logistics team supported the coordination of a National Logistics Cluster meeting held in Vanuatu, ahead of expected Tropical Cyclone Rita, and provided relevant training to the Vanuatu NDMO.
- Development commenced on a public website aimed at reducing the volume of unsolicited bilateral donations (UBDs) received in the Pacific region following disaster events.

Background

In the Pacific, WFP, as lead agency of the Pacific Logistics Cluster, undertakes activities across 15 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). Comprised mostly of small island nations, the Pacific region is highly vulnerable to natural disasters. The 15 PICTs are collectively home to 10.5 million people, spread across hundreds of islands in a region larger than the size of North America.

Across the region WFP's work is focused on country capacity strengthening and augmenting coordination and collaboration between partners throughout the humanitarian response cycle. As such, WFP works closely with National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) and relevant government agencies, humanitarian actors, academia and the private sector to define existing capacities, support locally-led initiatives and design and deliver capacity strengthening activities which are tailored to the Pacific context and based on identified gaps and needs.

The work of WFP through the Pacific Logistics Cluster has broadly focused on helping NDMOs throughout the region strengthen or establish national logistics coordination structures, deliver and develop trainings and simulation exercises, strengthen information management, and minimise the effects of unsolicited bilateral donations (UBDs).

Coordination

- In 2019, WFP and OCHA held a workshop with NDMO staff from four countries to develop a data capture template for PLCAs, using data collection tool, KoBo Toolbox. The template draft was adopted by the Vanuatu NDMO in November 2019, who will use it to capture data for nationally-led PLCA across outer islands.
- In Vanuatu, WFP supported the coordination of a National Logistics Cluster meeting in the capital, Port Vila, ahead of expected Tropical Cyclone Rita. In addition, WFP also conducted training for Vanuatu's NDMO and various NGOs on the Pacific Logistics Mapping (PALM) platform, as well as presenting the mobile data collection tool, KoBo Toolbox for PLCAs.

Information Management

- Development commenced on a public website aimed at reducing the volume of unsolicited bilateral donations received following disasters. The website, which is focused on the Pacific context, will educate community groups and

individuals on the negative effects of such donations and how they can hinder a disaster response. The website will also provide advice on how to donate more effectively. A united communication strategy has been developed in collaboration with the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and New Zealand Council for International Development (CID NZ). The website and campaign are scheduled to launch in Q1 2020.

- The Pacific Logistics Cluster has enlisted Australian volunteer Ané Coetzee as Communications and Logistics Project Officer to provide information management support to the Pacific Logistics Cluster and assist with the launch and promotion of the UBD project. Ané is part of the Australian Volunteer for International Development (AVID) programme, an initiative funded and coordinated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).
- Review of the PALM user manual was completed. As a result, the tender process for design and publication will commence in Q1 2020. The published manual will be distributed to key government and humanitarian actors.
- Additional upgrades were made to the PALM tool based on user feedback. These include the integration of additional reporting features (including improved analytics and data visualisation), enhanced registration processes and improvements in security architecture.

Advocacy

- Discussions have commenced with leaders of Tongan and Fijian diaspora communities in Australia to better understand diaspora donating behaviour in emergencies. Diaspora communities are known to be active responders to natural disasters through remittances, in-kind donations and volunteering, however the extent to which they contribute to UBDs remains unquantified. A key goal of these discussions is to ensure messaging is undertaken collaboratively with Pacific Island communities and diaspora and tailored to the Pacific context. This engagement was carried out throughout December 2019 and will continue into January 2020.

Contacts

Monica Salvitti

Partnership Coordination Consultant

monica.salvitti@wfp.org

Ané Coetzee

Communications and Logistics Project Officer

ane.coetzee@wfp.org