Background

The Pacific is one of the world’s most disaster-prone regions, with Pacific Island Countries ranked among the most vulnerable to natural disasters due to rising sea levels and increasingly severe weather patterns caused by climate change. The core functions of the Pacific Logistics Cluster (PLC) are to support the national coordination mechanisms, provide timely information management and technical support where needed, and facilitate access to common logistics services, such as air transport for cargo for urgently required humanitarian cargo when national response capacity is exceeded.

Operational Highlights

- **Federated States of Micronesia:** In February, PLC conducted a mission to the Federated States of Micronesia to strengthen the relationship with partners on the ground and present the support available at the regional level.

- **Republic of the Marshall Islands:** In March, the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) was conducted in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The information is now being reviewed and consolidated and will be published on the Logistics Cluster’s LCA website in the coming weeks.

- **Vanuatu Emergency Response:**
  - The island nation of Vanuatu declared a State of Emergency (SOE) on 5th March 2023 for the whole country after it had experienced two cyclones and an earthquake. Strong winds and substantial rains caused major flooding, damage to infrastructure, and caused power outages and communication system breakdowns across the country. Restoring energy/power, communication systems, transport systems, and shelter were priorities during the first weeks of the response.
  - As of 10th March 2023, the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) in Port Vila reported that some 251,346 people (about 80% of the population) and 30,000 households in all six provinces in Vanuatu had been exposed to the impacts of the cyclones.
  - The PLC deployed two staff members to Vanuatu during the onset emergency to support on-ground logistics coordination and information management led by the Vanuatu NDMO. The team was embedded in the Logistics Section under the NDMO and supported NDMO in drafting distribution plans for the outer islands.
  - Two Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), dispatched before the emergency response for preparedness, arrived in Port Vila on 13th March 2023 to support the current NDMO’s response efforts.

[Logistics Preparedness Officer overseeing the arrival and offloading of critical relief items in Port Vila, Vanuatu, on 25 March 2023]

https://logcluster.org/ops/pacific
Upon request from NDMO Fiji, the WFP-operated Pacific Humanitarian Air Service transported 15 metric tonnes of critical relief assistance on 25th and 26th March 2023 comprised of medical supplies and food rations, which was brought into Vanuatu at the request of the National Disaster Management Offices for Fiji and Vanuatu respectively. The remaining relief items (another 15 metric tonnes) were transported by sea (ETA on 4th April), including food supplies and tools for rebuilding infrastructure damaged by TC Judy and Kevin.

Coordination & information management

- The PLC coordinates monthly meetings with partners to foster and build partnerships during the cyclone season. During the reporting period, five meetings were held online and attended by 36 organisations. Three meetings were organised in response to the Vanuatu emergency to support regional coordination and upstream logistics. The PLC coordination meeting on 13th January 2023 focused on waste management with representations from the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Environmental Logistics: WREC Project. During the PLC coordination meeting on 24th February 2023, a representative from the National Emergency Management Office of Tonga presented the After-Action Review from the Tonga Volcanic Eruption and Tsunami on 15th January 2022, highlighting best practices and lessons learned.
- In total, PLC published 20 Information Management products on the Pacific-operation dedicated page Pacific Region – Logistics Cluster, including five meeting minutes, three situational reports (TC Judy/Kevin - Vanuatu response), 11 Pacific Island countries general logistics maps, and the Annual Infographic overview for 2022 illustrating key figures and achievements.
- The Vanuatu Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) was updated following a basic market assessment: 4.8 Vanuatu Transporter Contact List - Logistics Capacity Assessment - Digital Logistics Capacity Assessments
- The PLC cloud-source mapping tool was updated to indicate the airport status in Vanuatu. See more on the LogIE Pacific.

Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diego Flores</td>
<td>Pacific Logistics Cluster Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:diego.flores@wfp.org">diego.flores@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titilia Rabuka</td>
<td>Logistics Preparedness Officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:titilia.rabuka@wfp.org">titilia.rabuka@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Javed Yusuf</td>
<td>Capacity Strengthening Officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:javed.yusuf@wfp.org">javed.yusuf@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akosita Lewai</td>
<td>Information Management Officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:akosita.lewai@wfp.org">akosita.lewai@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://logcluster.org/ops/pacific