Background

The Pacific Logistic Cluster covers a portfolio of fourteen (14) Pacific Island Country Territories (PICTs), which are Cook Islands, Fiji, Federal States of Micronesia (FSM), Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Countries in the region have small and scattered populations spread across a vast ocean and are highly vulnerable to tropical cyclones, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and tsunamis. Emergencies in the region often overwhelm national capacity and severely impact economies and livelihoods, significantly affecting populations. These disasters can have devastating impacts on both human populations and the environment.

Two main coordination entities operating and support emergency preparedness in the Pacific Region:

- The Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) is a network of Humanitarian organizations that work together to assist the Pacific Island Countries to prepare and respond to disasters. IFRC, UN agencies, and INGOs are part of it.  
- Australia and New Zealand support the Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA), with the Pacific Community (SPC) leading it. The primary purpose of PIEMA is to improve interactions between agencies and their people.

Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

The Logistics Cluster is currently working on the Gaps and Needs Analysis exercise for 2023, but previous needs assessments indicate that the implementation of humanitarian programs is hampered by the physical isolation and the dispersion between several islands. The significant logistics constraints that hampers the ability of humanitarian organisations to respond to an emergency in the Pacific region primarily relate to:

1. Disruptions in physical access that exacerbate the isolation of some islands,
2. Suspension of already limited international freights due to damages to airports and sea ports infrastructure and its related hazards, especially during the first days of an emergency, and
3. the lack of coherent coordination and understanding of the national emergency arrangements and regulations related to the flow of relief materials and/or supplies.

On the other hand, we need to consider that organisations engaged in a humanitarian response demonstrate relatively high internal logistics management capacity and have developed their solutions for storage and transport—either through existing commercial providers or by establishing their internal arrangements.

Objectives

The core functions of the Pacific Logistics Cluster are to complement and support regional and national disaster response and preparedness arrangements:

- In the event of an emergency response, provide adapted coordination mechanisms, quality information management, and technical support where needed, and when national- and organization-level capacities are exhausted, facilitate access to common logistics services such as air transport and others if applicable.

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1 The Pacific Humanitarian Team at a glance | OCHA (unocha.org)
2 Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA) | SPC Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division

This Concept of Operations is a live document, and the activities will be adapted and revised as the situation unfolds and further assessment results become available, including the possible provision of additional logistics common services as required by the humanitarian community.
b) **As part of preparedness efforts**, enhance humanitarian supply chain preparedness and the capacity response of National Disaster Management Agencies (NDMOs) and other Government agencies to coordinate sub-regional and national humanitarian supply chains effectively and to be more resilient in responding to sudden onset disasters.

**Planned Activities**

The following range of activities and services are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of individual agencies or organizations but rather to fill identified gaps in the humanitarian supply chain and supplement the response of the humanitarian community including the government, through the provision of support and provision of common services, based on need and only as last resort. Taking into consideration the preparedness and support components.

The following services will be made available to the humanitarian community until **December 31st 2023**.

1. **Coordination**

To address identified logistics gaps, minimize duplication of efforts, and ensure logistics efficiencies, the Logistics Cluster will undertake the following coordination activities in support of National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) and humanitarian actors across the Pacific Region:

- At the regional level, the Logistics Cluster will maintain representation at the Pacific Humanitarian Team forum.
- The Logistics Cluster will also conduct bi-monthly hybrid coordination meetings to enhance partners' preparedness efforts and provide a forum to share best practices. The meeting frequency may increase during emergency response to address specific gaps identified by the humanitarian community, given the emergency onset.
- During an emergency, support to national logistics coordination mechanisms will be provided as required and where possible.
- The Logistics Cluster will liaise with authorities and relevant national and international actors on behalf of the humanitarian community to raise awareness around common logistics issues and advocate for solutions.

2. **Information Management**

The Pacific Logistics Cluster will collect, analyse and disseminate information management products to ensure a common understanding of the overall regional context and support decision-making to improve the efficiency of the overall logistics response and preparedness arrangements, including:

- Consolidate information on the overall logistics situation, including logistics gaps and bottlenecks.
- Provide partner operational updates by publishing situation updates, meeting minutes, snapshots, and briefings.
- Map logistics infrastructure through Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services.
- The availability of relevant logistics information is updated and published on the LogIE Pacific.³
- All information will be promptly shared with organisations via the dedicated mailing list and the Logistics Cluster Website.⁴
- The mapping and assessment of logistics infrastructures (roads, airports, ports, border crossing points), to be circulated and made available on the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) portal: logclustering.org/?op=pacific

³ logie.logcluster.org/?op=pacific
⁴ logcluster.org/ops/pacific

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The Pacific Logistics Cluster (PLC) coordination cell in Suva will disseminate relevant cluster-related information and tools and gather, from the National Disaster Management Organizations (NDMOs) and other partners in the region, the field information required to review all outstanding gaps, constraints, concerns, and risks encountered or anticipated in the region. A dedicated information management officer based in Suva, Fiji, supports the PLC support operations.

3. Logistics Services

The services facilitated by the Logistics Cluster are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of the agencies or organisations but rather to complement them through access to common services. Access permitting, the following services may be coordinated at no cost to the user or on a partial/full cost-recovery basis, depending on the availability of funds:

- Air Transport through the Pacific Humanitarian Air Service (PHAS)
- Common Storage
- Other ad-hoc logistical services like road and sea transport

As "Provider of Last Resort," WFP, through the Logistics Cluster, is responsible only for providing logistics services that fill identified gaps in logistics capacity, where access and funding permit and where these gaps limit the ability of the humanitarian community to meet the needs of the affected population.

4. Preparedness and Capacity Strengthening

The Logistics Cluster will continue supporting Government-led preparedness activities with a dedicated logistics preparedness officer (WFP Officer) based in Suva, Fiji. The preparedness focus will include, but is not limited to:

- Support to the national authorities on drafting and review of emergency Standard Operating Procedures
- Support to government-led trainings and simulations
- Support sharing of best practices in logistics preparedness through meetings, workshops, and other means
- Support the country's Humanitarian Supply Chain & Logistics (HSC&L) system and actors providing tailor-made and practical capacity-building activities, including:
  - Assist and support Institutional capacities needs identification and mapping and how to meet those through long-term engagements with the region's development, donors, and humanitarian actors.
  - Establishment of partnerships among educational institutions and public and private sectors, with the support from WFP, to develop, promote, deliver, and maintain HSC&L capabilities in the Pacific Region.

As "Provider of Last Resort" (PoLR), WFP, through the Logistics Cluster, is responsible only for providing logistics services that fill identified gaps in logistics capacity, where access and funding permit and where these gaps limit the ability of the humanitarian community to meet the needs of the affected population.
This Concept of Operations is a live document, and the activities will be adapted and revised as the situation unfolds and further assessment results become available, including the possible provision of additional logistics common services as required by the humanitarian community.