

**9th REGIONAL MEETING OF
PACIFIC HEADS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SERVICES (PHOAFS)
(15 – 17 May 2024) – virtual**

Paper reference	Session 3: Agenda item Paper 3.3
Title	Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in the Pacific Report (2022)
Action	For the kind information on PHOAFS
Author(s)	Joseph Nyemah, FAO

Summary

Summary/short description/key points

On 09 March 2023, during the Pacific Week of Agriculture and Forestry (PWAFF) meeting in Nadi, Fiji, the Food And Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) presented results of the “Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in the Pacific Report”, which was produced in 2022 by an FAO lead partnership of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Children’s Fund, World Food Programme (WFP), Who Health Organization (WHO) and The Pacific Community.

Following the presentation, the Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (PHOAFS) endorsed:

- a) the future and continuous production of this report.
- b) a call for development partners to take required actions to fill the identified critical data gaps.
- c) the FAO-led partnership of IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and SPC, who produced this report.
- d) the advocacy to countries to include food consumption, and nutrition relevant data into their national household surveys.

Recommendation: None.

Background

1. The 2022 Pacific Overview of Food Security and Nutrition report, jointly produced by FAO, IFAD, The Pacific Community, UNICEF, WFP and WHO covering the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Republic of, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu; and the Asian SIDS (Timor-Leste and the Maldives) is the first of its kind by the partnership. The report draws on existing evidence of the changing context of food insecurity and malnutrition to provide an update for governments and development partners.
2. FAO also leads the production of this report in the same format at regional levels, for example covering the Asia Pacific, Middle East and North Africa regions. However, both the global and regional versions do not detail the specificities of the Pacific.
3. The SIDS covered by this report are remote, with small populations, often dispersed across many atolls. Transportation is a challenge; people depend heavily on imports but also on their terrestrial and marine ecosystems for their food and livelihoods. These ecosystems, however, are fragile and vulnerable to natural hazards.
4. Diets in these SIDS are increasingly dependent on imported and processed foods, often of poor nutritional value. Unhealthy diets are a major contributor to non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and NCDs are the single largest cause of premature death in Pacific SIDS.
5. This report examines available data to present an overview of the current state of food security and nutrition. The report looks at the key indicators for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture), Targets 2.1 and 2.2, which focus on hunger and malnutrition. Additional global nutrition indicators are also presented to broaden the overview of maternal, infant and young child nutrition and nutrition-related health.
6. The objective of this paper is to inform PHOAFS of progress to date since the presentation of the report results during the 2023 meeting, during which PHOAFS endorsed:
 - a) the future and continuous production of this report.
 - b) a call for development partners to take required actions to fill the identified critical data gaps.
 - c) the FAO-led partnership of IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and SPC, who produced this report.
 - d) the advocacy for countries to include food consumption and nutrition-relevant data in their national household surveys.

Purpose of this paper

7. The purpose of this paper is to inform PHOAFS on progress to date since the 2023 meeting.

Updates

8. The first edition of the report has been widely shared and discussed at numerous regional fora, and the feedback is very positive and aligned with those of PHOAFS. The official publication is being processed.
9. FAO is committed to the continuous production of the Pacific Overview of Food Security and Nutrition report, consequently, the Organization has invested AUD 184,198 via a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with the University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia, to fund the production of next edition of the report.
10. FAO is leading the partnership that produced the first edition for the production of the next edition of the report, and the partnership agreed that the next edition will cover the time period 2023 to 2024. FAO is communicating with IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and SPC who produced the first edition to get their commitment of their joint efforts for the development of second edition.
11. The partnership agreed that the second edition – 2023 to 2024 – will however, omit Timor-Leste and the Maldives for practical reasons. For example, while the inclusion of the two countries provides opportunities for comparative analyses, accessing data in these countries is logistic and cost prohibitive.
12. FAO has invested USD1.7 million through its Technical Cooperation Programme fund to support various partnerships that to deliver capacity building for national statisticians and national agricultural censuses, compile SDG farm-based indicators, derive agrifood systems statistics, and enable Pacific leaders to attend regional and global fora to advocate for their statistics agendas.
13. During the 37th Session of FAO organized Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in Sri Lanka, member states called on the United Nations Rome Based Agencies (RBAs) to proactively work together in addressing data gaps. Partly as a consequence of this call, the Pacific based RBAs are collaborating to address specific data gaps in selected countries with a view to gradually cover more Pacific countries.
14. In 2023 FAO organized a regional capacity building workshop with 12 Pacific countries on SDG farm-based indicator methodology.
15. In 2023, SPC organized a regional capacity building workshop on HIES and poverty analysis during which FAO facilitated two sessions on the integration of the SDG farm-based indicators into the HIES questionnaire.
16. In 2024 FAO will organize a regional capacity building workshop on sampling for surveys.

17. FAO and partners will involve in and consult with relevant country partners in the development process of the second edition.