Who are the regional Pacific Food Security Cluster?  
What do we do?

**WHO:** The Regional Pacific Food Security Cluster (rPFSC) is composed of a cluster support team, consisting of specialists in Cluster Coordination and Information Management. The Regional Pacific Food Security Cluster is led at the global and regional level by FAO and WFP, two U.N. agencies with a mandate and expertise in the food security sector.

- **The Team:**
  - Philippe Martins, Regional Cluster Coordinator (FAO)
  - Sandra Uwantege Hart, Regional Cluster Coordinator (WFP)
  - Scott Higgins, Regional Information Manager (WFP)

**WHAT:** The primary function and objective of the rPFSC is to support national governments, country-level actors, and regional stakeholders in the coordination of actions in the food security sector, with a specific focus on:

- **Emergency preparedness and response:** Working with country-level actors to ensure Pacific communities at risk of food insecurity receive the right assistance, at the right time, in the case of a natural disaster.

- **Resilience-building:** Working with country-level actors to ensure that Pacific communities reinforce and build their resilience to a changing climate and recurrent natural hazards in the region.

The rPFSC provides support in a variety of ways and seeks to be demand-driven and responsive to the needs of country-level clusters.

We only provide assistance based on requests by and agreement with country-level clusters.

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**2016- KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

- Joint FAO-WFP support to Fiji Food Security & Livelihoods Cluster to complete Tropical Cyclone Winston Recovery Needs & Vulnerability Assessment
- Cluster support, such as (training, workshops and remote support) activities and plans proposed for Solomon Islands, Fiji, and Vanuatu
- Joint WFP-UNDP-rPFSC support to Solomon Islands Rapid Sectoral Assessment and 72-hr assessment tool training for Makira earthquake response
- Regional Cluster facilitation support and contributions to assess support needs for integrating cluster coordination and DRR in FAO-led “Reducing Risk and Strengthening Resilience in Pacific Agriculture” workshop.
- Cluster strategic plan and objectives developed
- Cluster support team strengthened with IMO and co-coordination (WFP) capacities

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**Active Country-Level Food Security Cluster Bodies In the Pacific Region - September 2016**

- Solomon Islands Livelihoods Committee
- PNG Food Security and Agricultural Cluster
- Fiji Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster
- Vanuatu Food Security and Agricultural Cluster
- Tonga Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster

FAO Regional Cluster Coordinator is currently facilitating the establishment of Food Security Cluster in Cook Islands Samoa and Tonga.
In October, the Fiji Food Security & Livelihoods Cluster organized a post-Winston Food Security Vulnerability and Recovery Needs Assessment across all four Divisions through three two-day workshops with extension officers from the Ministry of Agriculture (Office of Extension Services). Technical design and report writing was provided by WFP’s Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit (VAM) and implementation costs for the assessment were covered by FAO.

In mid-December 2016, Fiji encountered Tropical Disturbance (TD) 04F which caused extensive flooding and also extensive damage to the agricultural sector in affected areas.

To inform flood response efforts, the Cluster is now working with SPC and the regional cluster to link validated assessment data on vulnerability with mapping of flood zones and impacts to identify areas most affected by TD04F. It is expected that this will contribute to larger national efforts to target areas for recovery and rehabilitation.

In October the Solomon Islands Livelihoods Committee participated in a Contingency Planning workshop and a Cluster Support & Development Workshop led by the Regional Cluster.

Following December 8th 7.8 magnitude earthquake in the Solomon Islands, a workshop sponsored jointly by UNDP-PRRP and the World Food Program (VAM), organized by the Regional Pacific Food Security Cluster, conducted a “72 Hour Tool” rapid assessment workshop and training with Livelihoods Committee members and Ministry of Agriculture Extension Officers. Extension Officers and Livelihoods Committee members contributed their local knowledge to the learning experience and produced a rapid assessment for the Livelihoods and Food Security sectors within a week following the earthquake.

The Livelihoods Committee has since developed their detailed sectoral assessment questionnaire, and are planning to conduct a field level assessment with support from the Regional Cluster in mid-January.
Vanuatu Food Security and Agriculture Cluster

With assistance from the WFP regional Pacific Food Security Cluster Coordinator, the Vanuatu FSAC have developed Food Assistance Standard Operating Procedures to guide any emergency food distributions that may need to occur going forward. A draft is currently under review by Cluster partners.

At the advent of 2016/17 Cyclone Season, the cluster has been working on some advisory messages. RRU developed the key messages with input from Agriculture, Livestock, Biosecurity technical officers. The key messages will be translated into Bislama.

A 4W Matrix for Food Security and Agriculture has been developed and will be rolled out in 2017. 4W Matrix partner presence mapping developed, and GIS capacity has started to be developed at the RRU/FSAC.

Rapid Assessments completed for the hail storm on Emae and drought conditions in Erromango.

FSAC IM has trained Vanuatu Ministry of Agriculture Extension Officers across the nation in using Kobo Toolbox.

Tonga Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster

Cluster meetings were held on November 8th and December 12th 2016.

A Task Force is examining and commenting on training materials for the cluster, as well as Contingency Plans and the Sectoral Briefing. The group convened on November 11th and December 1st.

Training planned for the cluster was moved to 2017, contingent on funding and trainer availability.

Establishment of Cluster Committee’s in both Vava’u (14th Dec) and Ha’apai (16th Dec). Both Meetings were chaired by NEMO and the meeting has established MAFF Officer in Charge to be the focal points for both of the FSLC in both regions, as to emulate what has happened in Tongatapu. Now FSLC is the only Cluster that has been rolled out to the outer island regions in Tonga.

Papua New Guinea Food Security and Agriculture Cluster

The Church Partnership Programme (CPP) has developed a Food Security Assessment publication in partnership with Australia National University, which documents the efforts of the CPP, in partnership with local organization and other cluster partners to assess food needs during the 2015-2016 El Nino drought.

Cluster meetings, with the support of CPP and CARE PNG as co-chair, were held in September and December 2016, with the next meeting scheduled for February 2017.

Key actions by Cluster partners include completion of 2016 El Nino response activities focused on food distribution and agricultural recovery, training of farmers and the development of an Agricultural Recovery Plan by the Department of Agriculture and Livestock.
About Our Strategy

In July 2016, development of a regional Pacific strategy and work plan commenced. The Pacific region is one of the most vulnerable areas in the globe due to natural disasters and climate change, and as such the regional strategy and work plan stresses supporting country cluster preparedness and resilience in the wider food security sector.

We aim to build a response-oriented approach to food security coordination in the region that capitalizes on the existing potential of nationally-based actors and builds capacity. The work of the cluster is guided by 5 strategic objectives.

Strategic Objective 1: COORDINATION - Establish and expand the Pacific Food Security Cluster as a regional, sector-specific platform for information, exchange, strategic decision-making and research on Food Security in the Pacific, with a strong focus on enhancing preparedness, response and DRR initiatives in national-level clusters

Strategic Objective 2: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT - Ensure effective management, sharing and production of timely and relevant information for food security stakeholders in the Pacific region

Strategic Objective 3: CAPACITY SUPPORT & TRAINING National authorities and staff in country-level clusters have the knowledge & capacity to lead preparedness, response, and resilience actions in the food security sector

Strategic Objective 4: ASSESSMENT - National authorities and country-level cluster partners have access to comprehensive data on food security and vulnerability and are able to lead and contribute to assessment and monitoring efforts

Strategic Objective 5: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND RESEARCH - Regional-level, compile and provide general guidance on cross-cutting issues in the food security sector and integration of cross-cutting issues into food security preparedness, response and resilience initiatives

Upcoming Activities (2017)

• Regional Pacific Food Security Cluster IMO Support to Livelihoods Committee detailed Sectoral Assessment fieldwork and data analysis for the Makira Earthquake Response Solomon Islands (January)
• FAO support to Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock for food security monitoring (January – February)
• Presentation to PHT Principals on Cluster activities and key achievements in 2016 (January)
• Support and mission to Vanuatu FSAC for Food Distribution SOPs finalization
• Regional Pacific Food Security Cluster support missions planned for Tonga and Samoa (February)

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