

# Hunger and climate change in the Pacific – a threat to children’s wellbeing



The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 (SOFI)<sup>1</sup> report makes it very clear that Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are not on track to end hunger and malnutrition by 2030. Children of the Pacific SIDS face high levels of undernutrition, with stunting of up to 47% of children under five. Pacific Islands are also amongst the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) State of the Climate in the South-West Pacific 2023<sup>2</sup> report details how sea level rise in the region is

above the global average and highlights that 90 percent of the population living within 5 kilometres of the coast and half the infrastructure within 500 metres of the sea. In 2024, World Vision spoke to almost 1,000 children and young people in 4 Pacific Islands, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea, to understand the impacts of climate change on child hunger. Their answers give a clear indication as to why the world needs to act faster and with greater ambition in response to the climate crisis.

## What Children told us



*I am afraid of the future because if the flooding continues, we will not have enough land for our gardens. 14-year-old boy, Solomon Islands*



*Previously, when our mothers come back from the gardens, we would food for about 4-5 days, before they can go back to collect the next lot of food. However, this has changed, the quantify of food harvested at the garden can no longer feed the family for more than a day. 16-year-old girl, Papua New Guinea*



*When it rains and flooding occurs, it washes away the trees that protect our gardens, resulting in their destruction, leaving us with nothing to eat. 15-year-old girl, Solomon Islands*



*I believe it's crucial for all governments to work together to create policies that prevent developments that could worsen climate change. 12-year-old girl, Solomon Islands*



*We want you to hear the voice of young people because we are the future generation of the country. 19-year-old girl, Vanuatu*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/publications/home/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-food-security-and-nutrition-in-the-world/en>

<sup>2</sup> <https://library.wmo.int/records/item/68995-state-of-the-climate-in-south-west-pacific-2023>

## Key Findings

All **13**

**emergency responses ongoing**

in 2024 in the South Asia and Pacific region were **climate-related**;



they represent over **20%** of World Vision's **climate-related emergency portfolio**.



**91%** of children in **Vanuatu** and **98%** of children in **Timor Leste** reported they were **impacted by climate change**.



In **Vanuatu**, **90% of children** reported having **witnessed changes in their communities** due to climate change with

**67%** mentioned that **gardens were the places most impacted**.



**42% of children** in **Timor Leste**

reported **less access to food** as a result of climate change.



**25% of children** in **Timor Leste** highlighted that climate change had **damaged infrastructure** within their communities.



**Lack of water** as a result of climate change was cited by **56%** of the children we spoke to in **Timor Leste**.



**53% of children** in **Vanuatu** reported seeing **changes in the coastline** in their lifetime.

## Acknowledgements

World Vision is a Christian relief, development, and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. Inspired by our Christian values, we are dedicated to working with the world's most vulnerable people. We serve all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

Copyright © 2024 by World Vision International. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced in any form, except for brief excerpts in reviews, without prior permission of the publisher.

For further information about this publication please contact: [esca@wvi.org](mailto:esca@wvi.org)