

Brussels, 24 February 2026  
(OR. en)

6520/26

COHAFA 17  
RELEX 240  
DEVGEN 37  
ACP 19  
COASI 37  
CLIMA 89  
PROCIV 34  
INTER-REP 15

**NOTE**

---

From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 18 February 2026  
To: Delegations

---

Subject: Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Anticipatory Action: climate vulnerability in the Pacific and the Caribbean regions  
- presentation by CARE International

---

Following the meeting of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) on 18 February 2026, delegations will find in Annex the presentation delivered by CARE International.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> CARE International Aisbl, identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 90237823189-97.

<sup>2</sup> This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.

# SIDS, Climate Vulnerability and Anticipatory Action

*Alex Overett, CARE*



# Climate Change Drives Fragility in SIDS

## Climate Change Exacerbates Inequality

- Pacific SIDS experience Average Annual Loss from disasters of nearly 5% of GDP. Climate induced disasters make up 84.4% of this loss (UN ESCAP, 2020).
- Several Pacific SIDS place highly in the World Risk Report 2025 – Papua New Guinea (12), Solomon Islands (34) and Vanuatu (44) (Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft and IFHV, 2025).
- 2 in 3 women in the Pacific have experienced gender-based violence (UN Women, 2025)
- Pacific countries have among the greatest gender gaps in the world, with Vanuatu (141 of 156), Papua New Guinea (135) and Fiji (113) among the least equal countries (WEF, 2021)

CARE

---

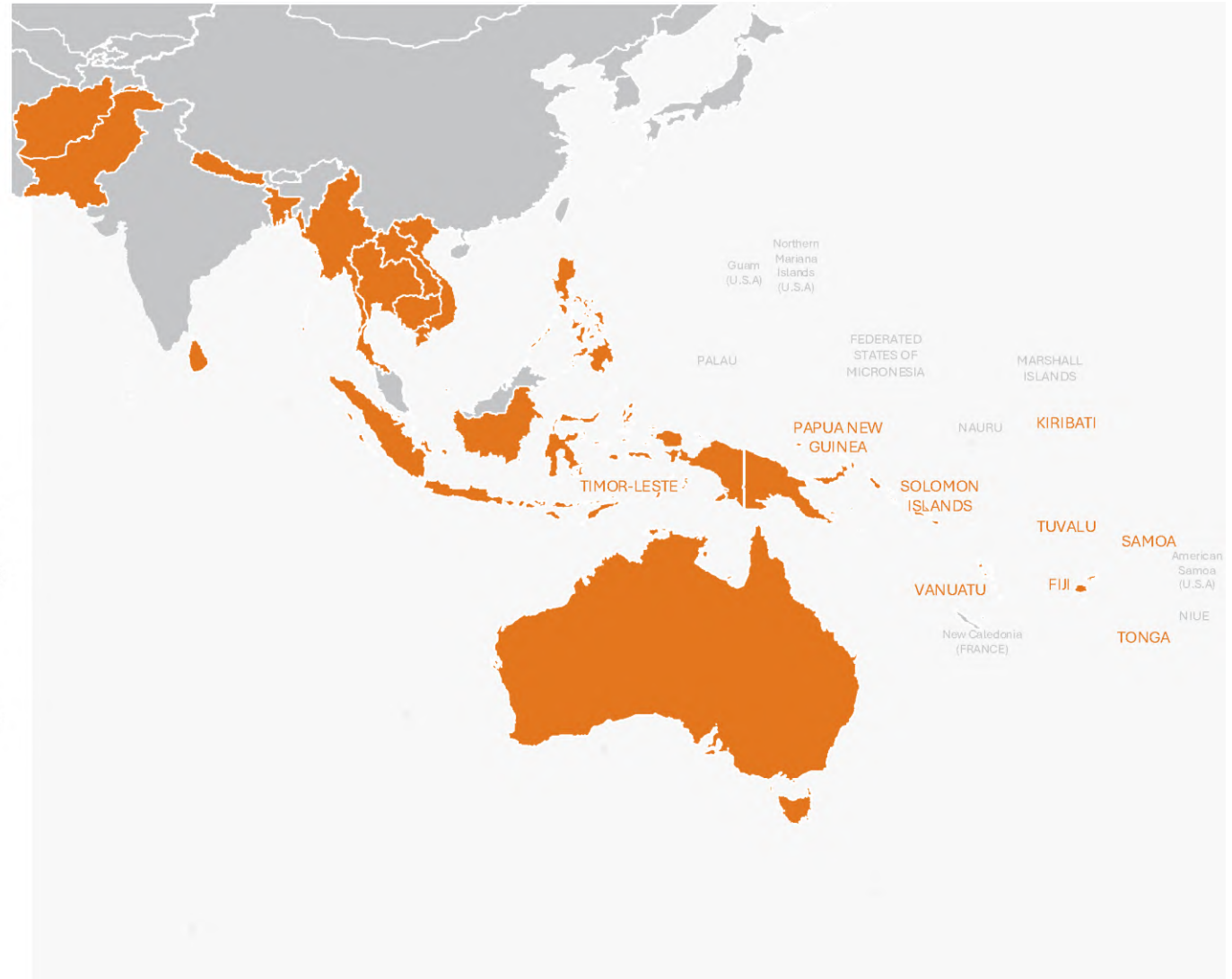


## SIDS in the Pacific

CARE operates in 9 small island developing states across the Pacific region.

Recent climate-induced hazards include:

- **Vanuatu** Tropical Cyclones Lola (2023), Judy (2023), Kevin (2023), Harold (2020), Gita (2018)
- **Papua New Guinea** Bouainville Atolls Drought (2025-26), Highlands Floods (2024), Coastal Floods (2024), Drought (2015-16)
- **Timor-Leste** Drought (2023-24), Floods (2021)
- **Fiji** Tropical Cyclones Harold (2020), Yasa (2020)
- **Tonga** Tropical Cyclones Harold (2020), Gita (2018)
- **Kiribati** Drought (2022)
- **Tuvalu** Drought (2022)



“

Anticipatory approaches seek to reduce human suffering, losses and damage by providing populations with assistance ahead of an imminent disaster. Measures include providing cash, sanitation and hygiene kits and shelter toolkits but also safeguarding livelihood measures such as evacuations of livestock. These anticipatory actions seek to cushion the impact of a potentially harmful event.

– IFRC, 2020

## **What is Anticipatory Action?**





# Anticipatory Action Supports Resilience

## Reflections from Across the Pacific

- CARE's anticipatory action programs in the South Pacific focus on early warning messaging to isolated communities, sandbagging, relocating livestock, early-evacuations, early-harvesting of crops, and support to government on camp coordination and camp management.
- Community-level approaches help navigate the isolation of some communities of the Pacific region.
- Anticipatory action can support national government-led responses by reducing the burden on their budgets by supporting communities ahead of time
- Civil society support national government to reach last-mile communities often missed in national responses.



## In Anticipation of Cyclone Pam (Vanuatu)

Chrystal\*, trained by CARE to join a community disaster committee

“On Friday afternoon, we started the evacuation. I used the megaphone and announced that the cyclone will be striking in the early morning, everyone should go to the safehouse, carry your children and water and food and go inside. Other committee members went from house to house, spreading the message...”

The committee helped the elderly and people with disabilities to move, carrying them and their things. If we hadn’t assisted them, many of these vulnerable people would not have been able to move to the safehouse in time. Even able-bodied people who could have moved themselves... wouldn’t have been so quick, so early, and they would have endangered themselves trying to move later.”

CARE

6

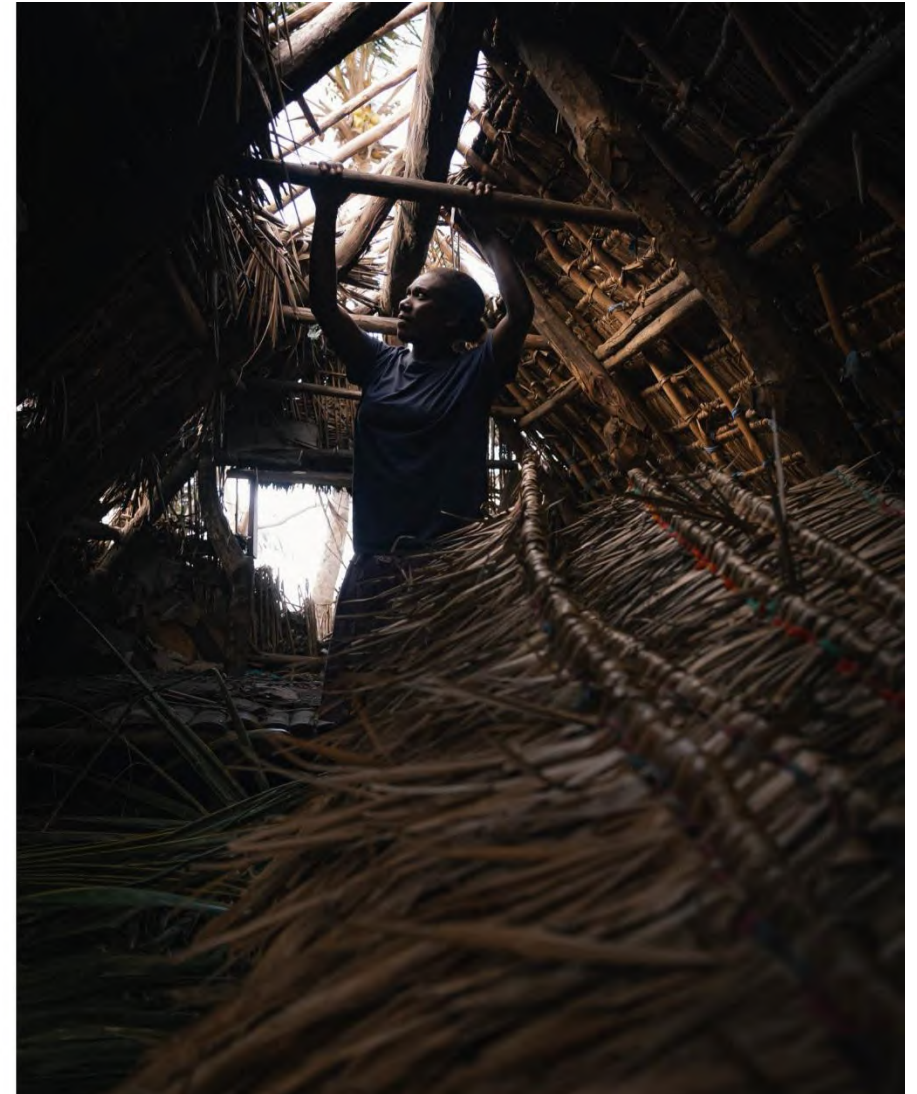
# Recommendations

The Humanitarian Reset imparts an urgency on us all to do more with less

- Anticipatory action can offer a fast and cost-efficient way to save lives and preserve dignity in SIDS
- Scalability in SIDS can be a challenge, so anticipatory actions should be done through locally-led, community-based, and flexible approaches
- Anticipatory action is best implemented embedded in long term resilience building programs
- Opportunities persist to improve national, sub-national and community-level climate forecasting and early warning technology in SIDS

CARE

---





## References

Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft and IFHV (2025). *WorldRiskReport 2025*. Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft.

<https://weltrisikobericht.de/worldriskreport/>

International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies [IFRC] (2020). *World Disaster Report 2020*.

[https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/20201116\\_WorldDisasters\\_Full.pdf](https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/20201116_WorldDisasters_Full.pdf)

Mikaelsson, M., Wibeck, V., & Linner B. O. (2025). Navigating the waves of change: Framing Pacific Small Island Developing States within a geopolitical and climate context. *Environmental Development*, 56.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envdev.2025.101270>

UN Women (2025). *Global Database on Violence Against Women and Girls*. <https://data.unwomen.org/global-database-on-violence-against-women>

United for Equality PNG (2021). *National Parliament of Papua New Guinea: Inquiry into Gender-Based Violence in Papua New Guinea*. [https://www.unitedforequalitypng.com/\\_files/ugd/7f0c06\\_7579973a602943b1bb52fadf58b00453.pdf](https://www.unitedforequalitypng.com/_files/ugd/7f0c06_7579973a602943b1bb52fadf58b00453.pdf)

United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (2020). *The Disaster Riskscape across the Pacific Small Island Developing States: Key Takeaways for Stakeholders*. ST/ESCAP/2880.

<https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/IDD-APDR-Subreport-Pacific-SIDS.pdf>

World Bank (2024). *World Development Indicators*. <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators/Series/DT.ODA.ODAT.XP.ZS>

World Economic Forum [WEF] (2021). *Global Gender Gap Report 2021*.

<sup>CARE</sup> [https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2021.pdf](https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2021.pdf)

9